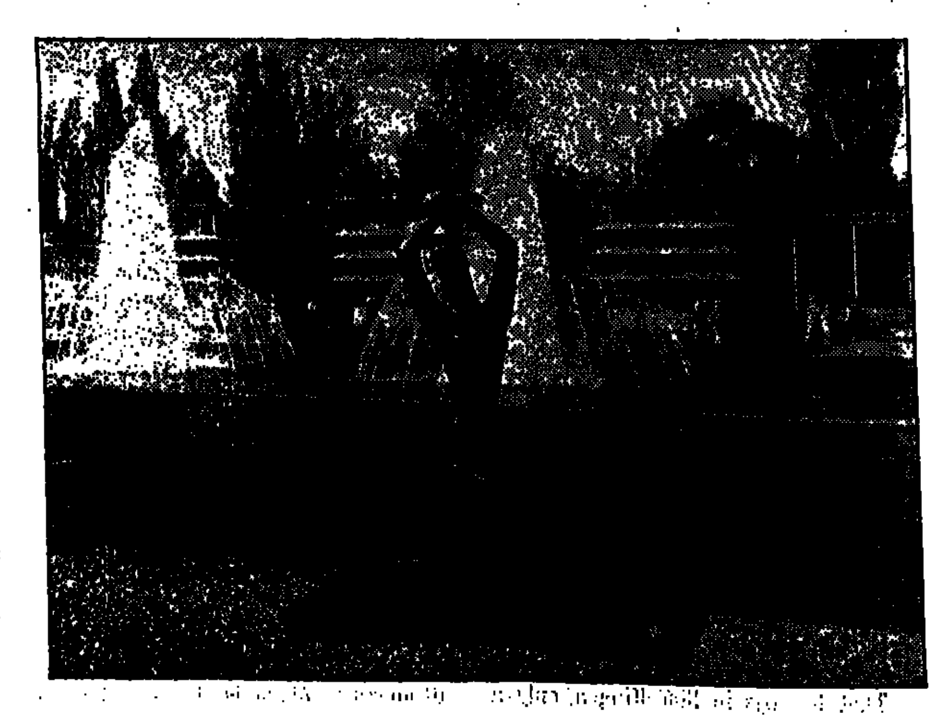
Parks in Germany

Is Germany a country of parks as well? Indeed it is. There is the magnificent Englischer Garten in Munich, the blossoming gardens around the river Alster in Hamburg, the flower beds of the German Federal Garden Show in the capital, Bonn, situated on the Rhine, and over a thousand other parks including whole forests. Again and again the landscape thickens to a park. Where a park transcends the borders of a town and takes over the woody hills both architects and gardeners sail with the wind. A good example is the Gruga Park in Essen, in the Ruhr area: it was laid out in 1929 and comprises waterworks, a botanic garden and exhibition halls. Or the Wilhelmshoehe mountain park at Kassel: in its midst is the residence built in 1786 which was temporarily occupied by Napoleon III. Or Ludwigsburg on the Neckar w... baroque palace and park and ... fairy-tale garden. The beautiful ... on the Island of Mainau on Lake Constance, on the other hand, ... a different kind: here the Swed... Count Bernadotte looks after ... gardens with Mediterranean ve... tation. Why not make a tour th... the parks of Germany?



Ludwigsburg

Gruga-Park/Essen

The German Tribune

...mburg, 1 March 1981
...entieth Year - No. 978 - By air

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Non-aligned summit raps Russians

DIE ZEIT

...fter long and furious disagreement ... the non-aligned summit in New ...hi agreed to include in its final com...niqué the call for a speedy political ...tlement in Afghanistan.

...t must be based on troop withdraw... on full respect of Afghanistan's ...ependence, sovereignty and territori... integrity and of its non-aligned status.

One has to have been at the first ...-aligned conference in Belgrade, 20 ...rs ago, to fully appreciate the changes ...ce undergone.

In 1961 two dozen heads of state ...nvened in the Yugoslav capital. They ...cluded the Big Three, Nehru, Tito and ...sser.

They called for an end to colonialism ...for the maintenance of peace. A few ...s after the building of the Berlin ...l peace, a major item on the agenda, ...med in particular jeopardy.

Then, on the eve of the conference, ...yone was thunderstruck by the news ... the Soviet Union intended to re...me nuclear tests.

...l wrote at the time that "it looked as ...ugh a wedding reception had just ...en told that the bride had been mur...ed: 'I am aghast,' was about all Nas..., Nkrumah, Nehru and others ...naged to say for days.

"Many speakers did not feel so bold to make as much as a single reference the Soviet decision, yet in private not ...one did not express feelings ranging ...m upset to horror.

"But the cry of dismay was choked ...thin the four walls of the conference ...amber."

That was in 1961. This time round ...re was a call in the official commu...qué, circulated worldwide, for the ...viet Union to withdraw its troops that ...d invaded Afghanistan.

Gone are the days when, for instance, ... non-aligned countries were invari...ly inclined to vote alongside the East ...oc at the United Nations.

Now the last colonial power has ...lled out, the anti-Western outlook of ... non-aligned countries has been rel...vised and they have grown more cau...us in their attitude towards the Soviet ...ion.

This caution has come even further to ... fore in the wake of the Soviet inva...n of Afghanistan and Moscow's ...per-imperialist thoughts and deeds.

Equidistance from both superpowers ... the non-aligned countries' objective ...wadays.

After the enthusiasm of early years in ...ich they felt that with the end of co...nial rule freedom, justice and prosperi...y would automatically ensue, a more level-headed, down-to-earth approach has prevailed.

In view of the doings of Idi Amin, Bokassa and Pol Pot or the Iraqi attack on Iran it is, moreover, growing increaingly hard to claim that the colonial era was to blame for everything.

There naturally are all manner of political directions among the 96 member-countries of the non-aligned movement, but the pro-Soviet extremists amount to no more than a dozen, led by Cuba, Vietnam and South Yemen.

The other side are led by Yugoslavia, Pakistan, Nigeria and the five Asean countries. Fidel Castro will chair the organisation until the next non-aligned summit, to be held in Baghdad in 1982.

Then, if everything goes ahead according to plan, Iraq will take over the chair, with summits being held every three years and preceded, a year beforehand, by a gathering of Foreign Ministers.

The permanent executive organ of the non-aligned movement is a 36-member coordination bureau consisting of 17 African, 12 Asian, five Latin American and two European countries.

At the last summit, held in Havanna in 1979, Fidel Castro tried in vain to transform the organisation from an independent movement to one allied with the Soviet Union.

President Nyerere of Tanzania probably expressed the majority view at the time when he said he doubted whether the movement had steady friends or steady foes.

If it were to join forces with a single power bloc, he said, it would soon cease to exist.

But the extremists are persistent and unlikely to give up easily. This time too the Cuban delegate moved that the final communiqué include the comment that the Soviet Union was the natural friend and ally of the non-aligned world.

Once again the Cubans were unsuccessful. The Foreign Minister of South Yemen, on the other hand, succeeded in smuggling into the draft a reference to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The others, exhausted no doubt by all-night sessions, failed in time to notice that this left them committed to the designation introduced by the Babrak Karmal regime.

The next morning, just before the communiqué was officially proclaimed, Pakistan's Agha Shahi spotted this significant change. He lodged a serious protest that was endorsed by other Islamic countries.

The designation, they argued, was tantamount to recognition of the Babrak Karmal regime installed by the Soviet Union. Feverish activity ensued.

Five hours later the offending words were struck from the communiqué. The moderates had won the day.

Foreign Minister Dhanabalan of Singapore was critical too. "Some members of our movement," he said, "are trying to couple the non-aligned train to a Moscow-bound locomotive."

Three Cubans left the conference hall and did not return until Mr Dhanabalan had finished his speech.

The Iranians announced their intention of trying to get the Karmal regime expelled from the non-aligned movement and replaced by anti-Communist Islamic Afghan resistance fighters.

The fourth non-aligned summit, held in Algiers in 1973, added to peace and decolonisation a further objective, that of establishing a New International Economic Order to bridge the gap between industrialised and developing countries.

The non-aligned countries have since sought to surmount economic imbalance in the world. The Soviet response was to deny that East and West could be mentioned in one breath as rich countries.

The Soviet Union had never been a colonial power, so there was no justification in making demands on Moscow.

All the non-aligned countries are included in one way or another in the tension of rivalry between the superpowers, but they also have problems of their own, primarily economic.

As for the countries of South Asia, given that the summit was held in New Delhi, they are concerned not only to maintain equidistance between America and Russia.

They are also keen to maintain equidistance between the communist great powers Russia and China. Vietnam, Russia's henchman in Asia, appears even more alarming than the Soviet Union itself. Cambodia has certainly borne the brunt, and Thailand too is feeling far from sure of itself. Since 1975 and the fall of Saigon the five South-East Asian countries that established Asean in 1967 have doubled their military expenditure.

As a rule Democratic administrations in Washington have shown greater interest in Europe, while Republican administrations have shown greater interest in Asia.

John Foster Dulles, Republican Secretary of State under President Eisenhower, once said: "Those who are not for me are against me."

This forced the Third World, which had yet to gain freedom from colonialism, into the arms of the revolutionary East.

Nowadays, with all these countries afraid of forfeiting their independence and looking on aghast as the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan and Vietnam invades Cambodia, the newly elected Republican administration of President Reagan's would do well to argue that those who are not against it are for it.

But equidistance can only be maintained on the understanding that the West makes a serious attempt to negotiate a new economic order.

Marion Gräfin Dönhoff
(Die Zeit, 20 February 1981)



Genscher confers with Sadat

Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher stopped over in Cairo on his way home from Pakistan for talks with President Sadat, here seen welcoming him at the airport. (Photo: dpa)

IN THIS ISSUE

■ INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

East Berlin is still much less at home at the United Nations than Bonn

An Arab diplomat at the UN, representing a Persian Gulf state, rates the GDR delegation "the political echo of the Soviet Union, very dogmatic and the least relaxed of the socialist delegations."

Socially too he finds them too inflexible, practically non-existent, like the Mongolians, "But at least they have distinctive features, whereas the East Germans are Europeans no-one knows."

At the other end of the scale comments include: "They are hard-working, technologically successful yet not a superpower, and ideologically our brethren."

Views such as these, however, are voiced only by a relatively small group of East Berlin's client states, countries such as Angola, Mozambique or Ethiopia.

Interestingly, it is the fact that they are German which makes them more attractive than the Soviet Union for a number of developing countries.

Their advisers are more popular than Moscow's, being rated more reliable and less overweening.

The further distant from Europe a country is, the less important it feels differences between Germans to be, even though two German states have been represented for all to see for the past seven years at the United Nations.

1973, the year in which the GDR gained admission to the UN, is felt in East Berlin to have marked a turning-point in foreign affairs.

It was the turning-point to general international recognition. In 1969, say, the GDR still only had diplomatic ties with about 30 countries.

The change, according to the GDR's UN ambassador Peter Florin, was the most striking expression of the shift in the international balance of power in favour of socialism and peace.

He used these words in an interview with *Horizont*, a foreign affairs magazine published in East Berlin.

The importance the GDR attaches to its membership of the United Nations can be judged by its choice of diplomats at the UN in New York.

Herr Florin, 59, is Deputy Foreign Minister and a member of the central committee of the Socialist Unity Party (SED).

In his dealings with Big Brother Russia and the smaller brethren of Eastern Europe he is bound to be guided by his personal ties with the Soviet Union.

Wilhelm Florin, his father, was a KPD member of the Reichstag who in 1933 fled with his son Peter to Moscow.

Peter Florin read chemistry at the Mendeleyev University and fought as a partisan in Byelorussia against the Germans in the Second World War.

This accounts for his Patriotic Order of Merit in gold and silver, for his perfect Russian and for his self-assurance, a feeling limited to East Germans who are secure in the knowledge that they have Soviet backing.

Many fellow-diplomats nonetheless rate him a little unsure of himself, although some say he has come to assume a more relaxed attitude as his English vocabulary has improved.

Yet Rüdiger von Wechmar, his opposite number from Bonn, has still not seriously considered striking up a first-



name relationship with him, even though first-name terms are customary at the UN.

Herr Florin is given to old-world courtesy towards the fair sex. Asked by a woman journalist how old he was (she said she imagined he must be about her age, in her 50s), he promptly replied:

"In that case I am, of course, a mere twenty-five."

At a reception to mark the anniversary of the establishment of the GDR a visitor from the Federal Republic of Germany said: "I cannot congratulate you on your national holiday but I wish you and my fellow-countrymen all the best."

He replied, without batting an eyelid: "The main thing is that you're here."

But he can also be less obliging, as Lothar Loewe and a West German TV camera crew learnt when trying to photograph the East German UN ambassador in the street.

Lothar Loewe, whose career has included expulsion from the GDR as West German TV correspondent in East Berlin, was told in no uncertain terms to beat it.

The GDR embassy cannot, by any stretch of the imagination, complain of not being a popular host in New York. Visitors from all continents and of all races attend its receptions, but especially blacks.

The East Bloc countries have shared out their work at the UN, and the GDR's job is to look after relations with Africa. Herr Florin once triumphantly proclaimed an anti-imperialist alliance of socialist and non-aligned Afro-Asian states.

The claim was a little premature. UN votes in which African countries condemned the Vietnamese invasion of Combodia, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the taking of US embassy hostages in Tehran by Iran belie it.

The East Bloc and the non-aligned countries do not always automatically vote along the same lines.

The GDR attaches great importance to its membership of the UN Security Council. This prestige role was somewhat offset when the 35th General Assembly chose Bonn's Rüdiger von Wechmar as its president.

As for the mark East Berlin has made on the Security Council, a North American delegate put the point succinctly when he said that:

"No-one awaits with bated breath what the East German delegate has to say. It is invariably a carbon copy of the speech by Soviet ambassador Troyanovski."

Maybe this impression is reinforced by the fact that at the UN Herr Florin speaks only in Russian, which may be an official United Nations language but even East Bloc diplomats normally address UN gatherings in either English or French.

Not even within the East Bloc is Russian a lingua franca.

Nowhere in the world are East Berlin's diplomatic representatives more closely confronted with their opposite numbers from Bonn that at the General Assembly and in its seven committees.

Delegates from the two German states are usually elbow-to-elbow unless coincidence would have it, then the gangway between the two of them.

But this proximity does not ... links. Even on specific issues on which GDR delegates are acknowledged as expert, punctual and disciplined ... ideological barrier between the two delegations remains, conciliatory ... notwithstanding.

This barrier even exists on issues which the two German states ... might reasonably be expected ... identical, as on the Law of the Sea.

Both parts of Germany have ... very little coastline of their own ... both are highly advanced technologically.

Yet although the two may ... agree they do not often clash ... either. One such occasion recurs ... ly at the full session of the General Assembly, however.

The Bonn Foreign Minister ... goes on record as saying that his government's aim is "to arrive at a state of peace in Europe in which the German people are able, in free self-determination, to regain their unity."

East Berlin's Foreign Minister ... upon replies that people in the GDR have long since opted once and for all and in free self-determination, for socialism and membership of the socialist community.

This annual exchange has become an established ritual that no longer surprises or excites the other 153 member-countries. There is no mention of the German Question in UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim's ... report to the General Assembly.

So it did come as a surprise when in 1976, a year in which an unusually ... number of people died in the bid to escape from the GDR across the barbed-wire border, Bonn's Hans-Dietrich

Continued on page 3

Reunification earns GDR leader applause in Gera speech

East German leader Erich Honecker is taking every possible opportunity to underline his willingness to talk to Bonn.

But there are two serious obstacles to talks which might have any hope of producing results: instability in Poland and relations between the two superpowers.

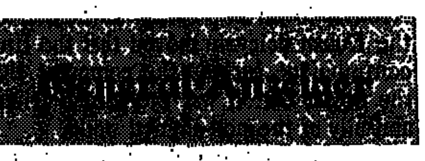
As soon as these obstacles have been removed the intra-German dialogue should be able to begin again.

This was not the most remarkable aspect of Honecker's Gera speech. Rather it was his thoughts on the reunification of Germany, a subject long taboo in the GDR.

The last one heard was that reunification was out of the question. Only Herr Honecker himself could have raised the question again.

He has not established continuity, however. He utterly rejected the legal position that the Third Reich still existed, describing it as revanchist.

He firmly scotched reunification hopes harboured in the West. Not until socialism had been established in West



Germany could the question of reunification be reposed.

There can be no talk of a return to the old slogans of the 50s. Then the East German Communist party spoke of Germans at one table.

It regularly issued invitations to pan-German workers' conferences in Leipzig, which were attended by numerous West German trade unionists.

In West Germany no politician could afford to make a speech without referring to reunification.

Those who had close contacts with "our brothers and sisters across the border" soon became the objects of the discreet attention of the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, however.

It was obvious that Bonn's reunification policy was not aiming at strict reunification but at best at the integration of the East Zone after it had been weaned away from Soviet influence.

Honecker's vision does not deserve the name of reunification either. What he wants is the unity of two ... states of the German nation, of ... within the framework of the East Bloc.

It is hardly surprising that the GDR can only imagine German reunification under these circumstances. Nonetheless it is worth noting that Honecker's words were loudly applauded by the party officials to whom he was speaking.

This underlined how alive the theme of reunification still is in the GDR. It also proved the truth of the observation that the will for reunification is ... GDR is far stronger than here, whatever public statements may suggest to the contrary.

This is a lesson that should not be forgotten.

(General-Anzeiger, 17 February ...)

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HOME AFFAIRS

Chancellor Schmidt's policy decisions sorely try Social Democrats' patience

... has become a standard formula in ... political polemics these days to complain that Helmut Schmidt should be ... energetic, more of a fighter.

... is not the old Helmut Schmidt, so the argument runs, but a man who talks ... decisions instead of taking them.

... fact the crises and sensational ... which have shaken the coalition ... particular the SPD do not seem ... affected the Chancellor greatly.

... SPD vice-chairman Hans-Jürgen ... Wischnewski talks of the most serious ... in the party since the war and parliamentary party leader Herbert Wehner ... of the dangers of a party split.

... Erhard Eppler has called for "policies ... the vast majority of the SPD can support with an easy conscience" and ... the nuclear modernisation decision ... revised.

The Hamburg SPD has voted, against the wishes of the Chancellor, to opt out of the Brokdorf nuclear power station in neighbouring Schleswig-Holstein.

Schleswig-Holstein SPD leader Klaus Matthiesen says he will not stand as ... Prime Minister in the Land elections, in protest against Bonn energy policies.

Social Democrats are still fighting bitterly about whether Bundestag MP Karl-Heinz Hansen should be expelled from the party.

And Willy Brandt called a special meeting of the party executive, a dramatic ... to dedramatise the situation and ... also to settle a few scores with Herbert Wehner.

Helmut Schmidt remains silent amidst all this turmoil, making no spectacular public appearances, no public appeals. His composure is almost demonstrative as if to underline that for him it is business as usual.

Observers are not quite sure whether ... attitude is fascinating or confusing. At any rate the Chancellor's behaviour does not fit into the criteria by which ... quality of political leadership is generally judged, qualities which Schmidt himself once so embodied.

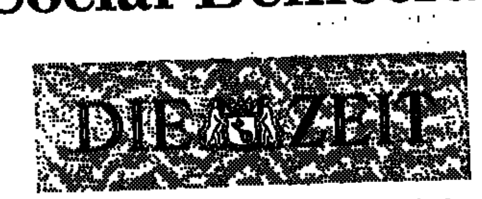
In ancient Persia, kings used to have to prove their strength and magic powers by strangling a lion every year. Trials of strength in modern states take ... rather different form, but the basic ... is still there.

Helmut Schmidt solved the Mogadishu crisis and was thus sure of general respect for some time afterwards. But ... crises should not be wished on ... heads of government, nor are they the general rule. Trials of strength in democracies are generally more protracted, ... spectacular.

Sometimes they are not perceived at ... because our expectations are dominated by the notion that a government ... simply has to follow its Chancellor's lead.

This means that every critical remark ... the SPD is registered, but not its astonishing capacity for learning and suffering over the years. And people do not ... appreciate just what the Chancellor ... expects of his party at the moment.

It is not the first time that Social Democratic heads of government have ... difficulties with their party. Anyone ... looks through the 1973 newspapers, ... the great SPD victory, will find similar complaints to today.



The link between the party and the Chancellor had grown thin, the left of the party was fraying, the party's capacity to govern was under threat and, of course, the FDP did too well in the coalition negotiations. All these complaints are not new.

What is remarkable is not so much that these criticisms have been frequently made in recent years but that the party's objections to government policy on major issues was so dosed that the government majority in parliament remained intact.

Why should things be different now? Have not most left-wingers in the party said that they had no intention and no mandate to end Helmut Schmidt's Chancellorship?

The probability of a sufficient number of SPD MPs voting against the Chancellor in an important vote is virtually nil. Social Democrats do not throw away power as easily as that.

However, the number of issues on which party and government disagree strongly has increased. The Nato modernisation decision, atomic energy, arms exports, relations with the new US administration and in this context also relations with El Salvador — this division is visible everywhere.

Discussion of these problems is taking place in a climate of low economic expectations and increasing unemployment, which once automatically led to expensive economy-boosting programmes.

The government is not so keen to launch such programmes now, at least not as keen as many Social Democrats would like to see it.

Secondly, relations between the executive and the parliamentary party have become more difficult because no-one in the Cabinet team can take over the function of Hans-Jochen Vogel: the quiet integration of government and parliamentary party.

Wehner only seems able to lead the party with considerable frictional loss. And his successor-designate, Hans-Jochen Vogel, has stepped into the breach in Berlin.

Willy Brandt finds it increasingly different to bridge the gap between party identity and the ability to govern by compromise formulae. There is a lack of leaders who are not only willing but skilful and strong enough to "cover the Chancellor."

The Chancellor himself, and this is the third reason why the conflicts are becoming clearer, is no longer prepared to take the needs of his party into great account.

Sensitive observers have found symptoms of a bunker mentality in the Chancellor's Office. Friends of the government, on the other hand, have described the government headquarters as a place of undisturbed and relatively frictionless efficiency.

There are also rumours that the Chancellor when making his decisions has less the opinion of the party than the judgement of history in mind.

At any rate, the time when Chancellor and party could refer to party resolutions which allowed both to keep face is running out.

It is running out because specific decisions now have to be made. In the dispute about Brokdorf nuclear power station the government has already made up its mind, a fact the significance of which the public does not appear to have grasped.

Compared with what has happened here, the Bonn government making common cause with the Schleswig-Holstein CDU against the local and the Hamburg SPD, the much-discussed Hansen case pales into insignificance.

And even the dispute with the Left in the SPD is of little consequence compared with the conflict with the North German SPD which the Chancellor is prepared to risk

No other government head has ever tried hies party's patience so severely.

A political pattern is emerging here which could reappear in the case of other problems, for example when the nuclear modernisation decision has to be implemented.

This, too, seems to be an area where Chancellor Schmidt is unlikely to be able to make real concessions to party wishes. On other questions such as arms exports compromises could more easily be reached.

On the whole it remains valid that the contradictions between government policies and the party are becoming

Continued on page 9

Continued from page 2

Genscher included in his General Assembly address a mention of the inhuman order to East German border guards to shoot to kill at would-be refugees.

The speech by East Berlin's Oskar Fischer had to be rewritten at the last minute to include a note of protest about Herr Genscher's claim.

There has also been an intra-German clash on the disarmament committee. Gerhard Pfeiffer, heading the Bonn delegation, called the increase in minimum compulsory exchange requirements for visitors to East Berlin and the GDR "a serious setback to detente."

The reply by GDR delegate Walter Krutzsch was couched in stronger terms. This was, he said, a bare-faced bid to interfere in the domestic affairs of his country.

It had shown that certain people still cherished chauvinistic ideas and were unable to accept the continued existence of the German Democratic Republic.

All told, however, one might gain the impression there was an unwritten agreement not to tread too heavily on each other's toes.

"Let us not point an accusing finger at the Wall," as a Bonn diplomat put it, "they allow us to carry on doing business with South Africa."

But this is not strictly true. Whenever America, Britain, France and West Germany are pilloried for maintaining economic ties with South Africa the GDR is invariably among the two-thirds majority in support of condemnation.

The same is true of votes on Israel. GDR delegates are particularly virulent in their attacks on Israel, so much so that Israel's UN ambassador Joseph Tekoah once felt obliged to protest.

How did East Berlin propose, he wondered, to come to terms with its share of responsibility for the mass murder of Jews during the Third Reich? The question has yet to be answered.

Social engagements between UN diplomats from the two German states depend on status, personality and the current political situation.

Lunch invitations have been out ever since the GDR increased its tourist exchange requirement, since Erich Honecker made his Gera speech and, in particular, since Soviet troops have threatened Poland.

Before the latest freeze regular invitations from ambassador to ambassador were exchanged, with the East Germans calling at Bonn's embassy in 65th Street and the West Germans tucking in to East German food and drink at Herr Florin's country house.

Discussions of any depth on specific issues seldom occur, Bonn diplomats say. Their GDR counterparts feel slightly unsure of themselves, are irritated and are never relaxed enough to be unofficial. Never would East Berlin's men dream of saying confidentially that they do not personally agree with some specific aspect of their government's policy.

So the talk centres on New York, the arts, the weather and strictly superficial, non-committal issues. Western Europeans and Americans at the UN are not unduly keen on the East Germans. They have a reputation for being unbending and boring.

Germans as a whole may lack a sense of humour, but in this respect East Berlin's men take some beating, as a Bonn delegate noted when he had to leave a session of the human rights committee early because of another appointment.

It's all yours, he told the GDR delegate. You can represent all Germany for a while. East Berlin's man, a lady professor and a GDR state secretary, was not amused.

She replied to this harmless witticism with a short but serious discourse on sovereignty.

Many of the GDR's activities go on behind closed doors in special committees the Federal Republic steers clear of.

They include the Namibia committee, the anti-apartheid committee, the committee for the inalienable rights of the Palestinians and the like.

On these committees the GDR may exert a certain influence on the non-aligned states but its influence on the United Nations as a whole is described by a high-ranking diplomat as follows:

"They are a member-country like any other. Their clientele is limited. They have few friends in Asia and only the typical East Bloc supporters in Africa or the Caribbean.

"But in their regional group they play a role by virtue of their relative economic power."

Unlike the Federal Republic of Germany, which steered a convention on hostage-taking through the UN, the GDR has yet to show any initiative of its own at the United Nations.

So whenever a diplomat refers just to Germany he can be taken to mean not the GDR but the Federal Republic of Germany.

Gitta Bauer/SAD

(Die Welt, 10 February 1981)

■ WAR CRIMES

Blockbuster concentration camp trial in Düsseldorf

Majdanek concentration camp, the venue of war crimes that have been the subject of proceedings at a Düsseldorf court for more than five years, was many things to many men.

It was, for instance, a row of stables where thousands of Jewish prisoners slept on straw in summer and vegetated under paper bags in winter if they were lucky.

It was also a courtyard where SS men had labour gangs assemble, number off and be detailed for duties every morning and evening beneath the gallows.

It was a spot known as the rose garden where prisoners were selected and detailed for life or death. And crematoriums and gas chambers and barbed wire and high-voltage lines and death blocks and invalid blocks.

It was a special model hospital laid on for inspection by the International Red Cross and any number of mass graves hidden away in the forests a few miles distant.

Majdanek concentration camp was on the northern outskirts of Lublin, Poland, and between December 1941 and spring 1944 it cost more than 250,000 people their lives.

Most were victims of organised mass murder, being killed by carbon monoxide poisoning or Zyklon B, a mixture of cyanide and hydrogen, in what were said to be baths.

Epidemics, hunger and thirst were the death of many more, but a substantial number were beaten to death, hanged, drowned and shot in frightful episodes of inhuman excess by SS guards.

After Düsseldorf court proceedings lasting five years two months public prosecutors Weber and Amberg have begun to summarise the evidence heard more than 35 years after the event.

The seven men and two women in the dock have already been the subject of the lengthiest criminal trial ever heard in the annals of the German judiciary, but there is more to come.

The prosecution's job will be to prove that the remaining accused, members of a camp staff at times totalling 1,500, were individually guilty of murder or collectively responsible for organised mass murder.

More than 300 witnesses have been heard, including about 200 former prisoners, most of whom now live either in Israel or in North America or in Poland,

The prosecution's case is stated soberly, unimpassionedly, yet definitely. The prosecution counsel begin by outlining the historical background against which it all came to pass.

Then they go into the life stories of the accused, most of whom came to Majdanek voluntarily, before dealing with innocence and guilt.

The legal summaries and sentences called for have yet to come, but the public gallery is full for the first time in months.

A number of the accused try to escape the prying lenses of Press photographers' cameras by wrapping lawyers' robes over their heads.

The court even holds a dummy session for the benefit of the TV cameras. But then the public prosecutors get back to their summaries.

The camp itself, it seems to have been established beyond reasonable doubt, was not envisaged by Himmler, the SS Reichsführer, as an extermination camp.

He planned it as a small industrial outpost of his death's head organisation. It was to be a labour camp in which forced labour would in many cases be synonymous with death because, with mass deportations, reinforcements were readily available.

But the original project fell apart at the seams as soon as construction work began in autumn 1941. Lunatic ambition and reality never saw eye to eye.

The project was disguised as a PoW camp for Russian prisoners, but this camouflage proved useless when nearly all the Russians died of spotted fever in an epidemic.

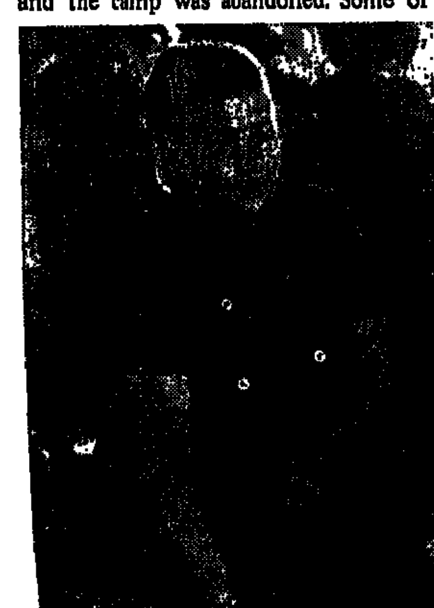
So it was left to Polish civilians and Jewish prisoners to finish the construction work. Many died initially of exhaustion and maltreatment, so the SS began building crematoriums to dispose of their corpses.

First there were two crematoriums, then five working nonstop. Later, when mass murder became the rule, the SS dug mass graves in the surrounding forests.

From the spring of 1942 gas chambers were built and it was decided to kill most deportees the moment they arrived. The number of gas chambers was gradually increased to six.

Three hundred people could be killed in each operation at each gas chamber, and the pace was maintained until spring 1944 when the Red Army advanced.

The last labour gangs were then shot and the camp was abandoned. Some of



Hildegard Lächert (Photo: dpa)

the SS staff were transferred to Auschwitz, others to Buchenwald.

Himmler seems to have seconded others to Yugoslavia to help fight Tito's partisans and, presumably, die in action. The SS does not appear to have been keen on survivors of concentration camp service.

Survivors have told the court heartrending tales of day-to-day camp life. Majdanek was a death camp, little more than an abattoir.

Thousands of prisoners died in epidemics. So did a number of SS staff. SS courts sentenced to death camp commanders who embezzled prisoners' cash and gold. Beating up prisoners and using the lash were the order of the day.

The general brutalisation that soon came to the fore as a result of indescribable sanitary conditions seems to have disgusted some of the staff.

A number applied more than once for a transfer to active service on the front, so keen were they to get out. But, as Heinz Villain, a former SS NCO now in the dock, put it: "It was impossible to get out of Lublin."

The SS commanding officers took good care to ensure that staff stayed put. The camp was run on strict hierarchical lines, with deputy comanders and a separate political unit run by the Gestapo.

There were Führers of various ranks among the staff and a similar hierarchy among the trusted inmates.

Much of what is known about Majdanek is known from documents that have survived, and the SS set great store by keeping exact records.

Thanks to files containing ration coupons, railway freight papers, work schedules and details of transfers and promotions the dates of arrival and extermination of many a trainload can be established.

Even 35 years after the event the memories of former inmates can thus be checked for accuracy. In most cases, and certainly on key facts, they have proved surprisingly accurate, the prosecution says.

Discrepancies and contradictions arise when it comes to day-to-day life in camp, but many witnesses have submitted corroborative testimony on specific excesses, especially those on women and children dubbed Thanksgiving.

The prosecution does not propose to rely in any way on the evidence given by witnesses who suffered serious physical or mental damage at Majdanek.

But that still leaves plenty who can attribute specific camp excesses to specific men and women in the dock, which is not to underrate the grave risk of mistaken identity.

A number of survivors have memories of one particularly vicious SS man with a Roman nose. They have been tempted to identify people in the dock as this particular offender.

The prosecution knows for a fact that he died many years ago. So these witnesses have found that their evidence does not stand up too well in court.

The men and women in the dock are, for the most part, old-age pensioners. They either stoop or stay erect with the aid of walking-sticks.

Many have spent years in US, Polish or Soviet camps. They began their working lives in the Weimar Republic in jobs for which there was no future as the Depression descended on the country.

They were farm workers, metalworkers, carpenters, forestry workers and the like. Some, such as the accused Hackmann, Laurich, Groffmann and Strippel, volunteered early for service in the SS.

As mass unemployment took its toll they reckoned board, lodging and a small wage, a smart uniform and the promise of civil service jobs after demobilisation were well worthwhile.

None of the accused are said to have been unduly committed politically. Their basic outlook is probably best described as: order is necessary, everyone has a job to do and Hitler will see to it that order is restored.

Most served as concentration camp guards at Buchenwald, Dachau, Flossenbürg and Mauthausen in the mid-30s.

They all say they gradually came to the conclusion that what they had to do was no longer in order, but they had no choice but to accept the inevitable as there was no way out.

All claim to have volunteered on

Hermine Ryan

more than one occasion for acti[...] vice. They may be telling the [...] no-one now can tell.

They are certainly keen to make [...] selves out to have been mere [...] clerks at Majdanek, but in some [...] the camp records make short [...] these bids to whitewash themselves.

A number of the accused were [...] guilty of serious offences by [...] Herr Petrick, for instance, is kno[...] have been imprisoned and later se[...] labour camp by the SS for repeated [...] bezzlement and fraud.

Like crooked camp commanders [...] as Koch and Florstedt he [...] pocketed his victims' cash and gold.

Many witnesses agree that Her[...] rich was what at Majdanek was ca[...] angel of death. He whipped pri[...] till he blinded them, shooting [...] personally with his service pistol [...] they reached the crematorium [...] having tortured them to the [...] death.

Herr Hackmann, now virtually a [...] ken man as he sits in his chair [...] dock, is said by witnesses to have [...] smart, forward SS officer who wa[...] cious thug.

He disagrees, putting forward a[...] gument that is characteristic o[...] and of conditions at Majdanek. [...] he never thrashed anyone person[...] only because of the risk of infectio[...]

One or two of the accused, o[...] other hand, are remembered by [...] inmates as having tried not to o[...] the mark.

They were invariably loud-m[...] in their villification of filthy Poli[...] Jewish swine but took good care [...] harm them personally.

Evidence along these lines has [...] noted in favour of the accused Ell[...] and Strippel. Public prosecutor [...] says no cases of personal [...] committed by them have come to [...]

Their activities at Majdanek are [...] very much in the dark and likely [...] that way, which should prove to [...] benefit. There is no way in which [...] can be legally obliged to submit [...] dence against themselves.

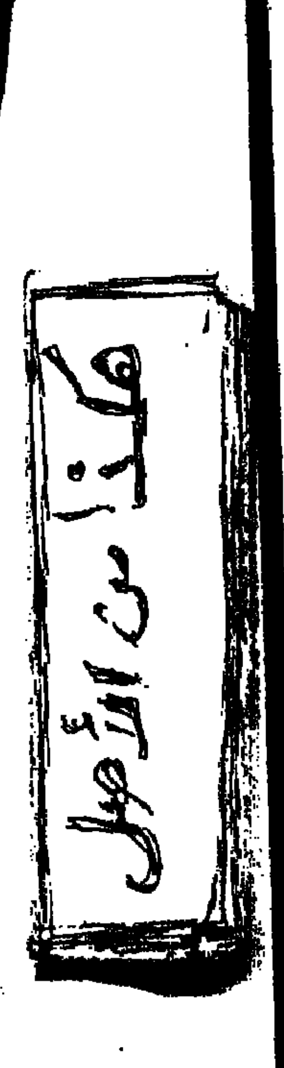
Even after more than five yea[...] hearing evidence the Düsseldorf [...] cannot claim to have unearthe[...] truth, the whole truth and nothi[...] the truth about Majdanek.

Many new facts have come to [...] about the camp but the means [...] to German criminal law cannot [...] hope to reveal the full extent of [...] ing and misery there.

"Majdanek," a witness who now [...] in the United States said, "was [...] Hell every day."

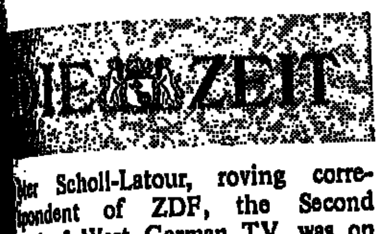
Lothar Bew[...]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine [...] für Deutschland, 18 Februar[...])



PEOPLE

No-nonsense commentator is public's favourite



[...] Scholl-Latour, roving correspondent of ZDF, the Second [...] of West German TV, was on [...] of his rare visits to the Bonn stu[...] to cut his latest film on Sinkiang.

[...] he was in the country and the [...] hostages had just flown out of [...], he was in demand as a TV com[...]tator on these latest events.

Few other journalists last year report[...] as calmly and knowledgeably on [...]ents in Iran. When the hostages land[...] in Frankfurt to the accompaniment [...] mindless, hectic reporting, Peter [...]oll-Latour was concentrating on a [...]pletely different aspect of events.

"What interests me is the role of the [...]erians as mediators," said Scholl-La[...]ur, who has dual German and French [...]tionality.

He knows what he is talking about. [...] knows the Algerian revolution and [...] children. "There are outstanding di[...]mats among them, all French-edu[...]ted." A heretical remark, certainly.

But Scholl-Latour is no follower of [...]nds or fashionable currents. He [...]aks his own mind and is fond of [...]oting de Gaulle's advice to Kennedy: [...]écoutez que vous-même! " (Do what [...] think is right).

This independence explains part of [...]-Latour's fame as a journalist. But [...] also makes him suspect to the timid [...] and careerists in a washed-out pub[...] corporation television and radio sys[...]tem.

So it was no wonder that even Peter Scholl-Latour was not allowed to criti[...] the Americans in Vietnam in 1968, [...] allowed to predict that they could [...]ver win the war.

My talk with Peter Scholl-Latour took [...] hours, during which he tried his [...] commentary out on me. He [...]aks quietly and fast, in the familiar, [...]mewhat mumbling tone he uses on te[...]vision as he looks straight into the [...]era without batting an eyelid.

What he says is precise, brief and un[...]rmed, except for the Gallicisms he [...]asionally slips in. He is a great lover [...] things French, provided they are [...]patible with Prussian virtues.

However, his constant historical [...]e-dropping does intimidate his audi[...]e. His information on the Sunnites [...] the Shi'ites throughout the ages, [...] caliphs and dervishes, is above [...] of their heads.

Now, indeed, he has gone on to the [...]ghanistan resistance and its origins and [...]ants. It is all very confusing.

But Peter Scholl-Latour is no mere [...]er obsessed with history. He does [...] waste time on anecdotes, always [...]ks to the point. Leading TV com[...]tators should take a leaf or two [...]m his book.

He would beat them about the ears [...] their hollow phrases, politely but [...]mly.

In short, Peter Scholl-Latour is one of [...]ying breed. He is an educated, curi[...] and active individual with a capacity [...] putting his thoughts, observations [...] associations into the precise form of [...]lytical and reflective journalism.

Whether with or without the microphone, he always seems to be on duty. Or always off duty. Whichever you like. He says he would do what he does even if he were not a paid journalist but just a private individual. And he is an extremely hard worker.

He recommends curiosity as a virtue to his younger colleagues. But they, of course, just puff out their cheeks and shout: cliché.

Pontification, conformism and political good behaviour, even mere sloganeering, are qualities which can get West German journalists way up the career ladder these days.

But it is journalists in the Peter Scholl-Latour mould who win the respect of the viewers. Scholl-Latour is a star, without glamour or vanity but with a definite sense of his own worth.

He is a man who certainly has his faults and weaknesses but nonetheless an exceptional character. He is the precise opposite of the typical West German public corporation journalist.

If there were more of his kind around, there would be some hope that the system could reform itself and escape the clutches of small-time party politicians.

Peter Scholl-Latour was himself a member of the hierarchy for a short time. But as television director of WDR in Cologne he never forgot his profession.

Whenever his radio colleagues needed his knowledge and expertise, he found ways of escaping from the routine of meetings and committee sessions.

Take a typical example. He had been asked for a commentary on the situation in Vietnam. He came into the studio on the dot.

The head of the studio turned pale. Scholl-Latour had got no manuscript with him. In the soundproof cabin he ran his fingers through his hair, stared at the microphone and said run the tape.

He had four minutes thirty seconds for the commentary, no more, no less. After exactly four minutes and thirty seconds he had completed his final sentence, off-the-cuff, without hesitation or error.

The studio manager gulped down a gin. Scholl-Latour politely took his leave and rushed off to the next appointment. The cutter did not have to change a thing on his tape.

Scholl-Latour stood the desk job for two years. Two years, in his own words in which he had a "whale of a time" and was also involved in entertainment and quiz programmes.

He mentions the names of theatre director Peter Zadek and film director Volker Schlöndorff. We got them on to our channel, he says, cherishing the memory.

He says he could have stayed on in the job for a few more years, "but I was 47 and I wanted to get out and start again."

Scholl-Latour had wanted to get out into the wide world even since his childhood, when he remembered following the course of the Sino-Japanese war on the map.

In 1948 *Le Monde* printed his first articles, reports on the Soviet zone of Germany.

Since then, he has been fascinated by war and hot spots. Younger readers of his book on Vietnam will probably be put off in places by the nostalgic *ancient de l'Indochine* tone.

In 1945, Peter Scholl-Latour sailed to Indo-China for he first time, as a French soldier, "out of curiosity and love of adventure." Even today, he does not care to specify further.

In his bestseller *Death in the Paddy Field – 30 Years of War in Indo-China*, Scholl-Latour wrote about the young French officers who were shipped to Indo-China aboard the Royal Navy troop carrier *Andus:*

"They were longing for adventure and strong emotions. Probably very few of them had read Jean-Paul Sartre, but in their way they were existentialists in uniform.

"They were seeking the roads to freedom, *les chemins de la liberté*, in a tropical, war-ridden Saint-Germain des Prés of their imagination. 'At last, a corner of



Peter Scholl-Latour (Photo: Archiv)

the earth which is not paved,' wrote one of them in his diary."

Perhaps these officers' motives were not very different from Scholl-Latour's own.

Vietnam also affected Scholl-Latour's ethos as a journalist. He once wrote: "Vietnam was a total television war: systematic pro-Americanism was followed by systematic anti-Americanism."

What sometimes seemed to be bold reports in fact often turned out to be subtle forms of conformism. And so he prefaced his book with the honest remark that it was the account of a personal experience:

"In thirty years of Indo-China I found that subjective reporting was often the most honest method of getting close to reality or, if one does not shrink from the word, the truth.

Winfried Scharlau, who himself was for many years a South-East Asia correspondent, wrote in a *Die Zeit* review: "The title of these war memoirs could aptly be changed to Indo-China *mon amour.*"

He was right. If a man as soberly and inconspicuously dressed as Scholl-Latour wears a silver bracelet, this can only be a tribute to Indochina: the unusual ornament is a present from the Meos, a Vietnamese mountain tribe, to the reporter who loved and respected them.

Margrit Gerste

(Die Zeit, 6 February 1981)

Publishing giant supremo, 60, quits as managing director

Reinhard Mohn, 60, board chairman of Bertelsmann AG, the second largest media concern in the world after CBS, is retiring as managing director to chair the supervisory board.

His company, Bertelsmann, doubles its turnover every four years. At the moment turnover stands at DM5bn, of which half is earned abroad. And turnover minus costs equals profits.

Mohn told *Welt am Sonntag* that "we can always think of ways of using our money."

He says that his best idea was the total delegation of leadership and of responsibility.

The group consists of 100 profit centres, all run by "small entrepreneurs as in the 19th century," and all wanting to make just a bit more profit, because it is they who benefit from it most.

Bertelsmann spends about DM20m per annum on shares for its staff.



Reinhard Mohn (Photo: Bertelsmann)

Mohn says: "I learnt to delegate in the 50s when we doubled turnover every year. Anyone who tries to run things centrally in such a situation is going to go bust."

During the interview, he drank a glass of tomato juice, kept his blazer dashingly open and occasionally spoke with a North Rhine-Westphalian accent.

Asked about himself, he said: "I am completely uninteresting. Write something nice about Bertelsmann." About Bertelsmann: "I see no problems for the future. There are no limits to its growth potential."

About why he is moving upstairs at such a comparatively early age: "Many companies suffer because one man stays at the top too long and there is no one to replace him."

About the new generation of managers: "University graduates ought to learn to talk first. What they get pumped into them is a load of hooey."

Would you describe your concept as brilliant? "No, it's just common sense and fairness."

(Welt am Sonntag, 15 February 1981)

■ FREE TRADE

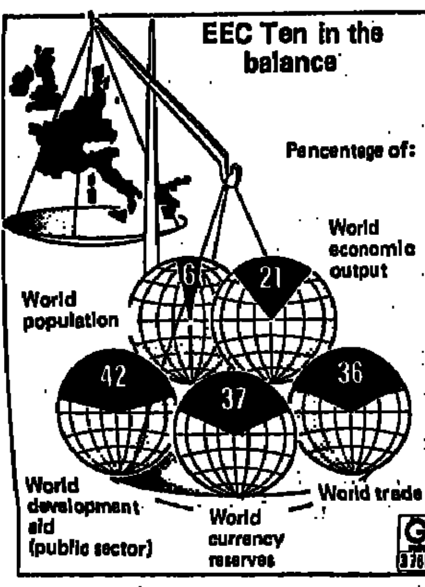
EEC Commission's Narjes raps back-door protectionism

Karl-Heinz Narjes, former CDU/CSU economic affairs spokesman in the Bundestag, was nominated by the SPD/FDP Bonn coalition to succeed Guido Brunner at the EEC Commission.

Brunner's brief had been energy policy. But before returning to Brussels Herr Narjes was advised to steer well clear of energy policies. He was to concentrate on the EEC home market. More needed doing here to protect German interests, he was told.

After only four weeks in Brussels, Narjes is convinced that this advice was sound. "The home market is the core of the European Community," he says.

He regards the protection of that market from the increasing army of protectionists of all nationalities as one the



most important tasks facing the EEC Commission.

At his insistence, the EEC Commission has made a first move against the trade barriers erected with considerable and increasing inventiveness by national bureaucracies.

His move is directed against the Italian measures to reduce steel imports. A decree by the Italian Ministry of Finance in November 1980 closed 21 of the total 33 customs posts in the country.

The Italian authorities justified this concentration by telling Brussels that this would enable better control of the steel market.

This was a demand the EEC Commission itself had made in its steel crisis plan. Furthermore, they said, they wanted to prevent evasion of important turnover tax, not to prevent imports.

The EEC Commission saw through this "highly ingenious move" immediately. But it still took two and a half months for the EEC to react to the numerous complaints.

West Germany, France, Britain, Belgium and the Netherlands bombarded Brussels to open proceedings against Italy for breaking the EEC treaty.

In patient negotiations led by Count Davignon, whose brief at the EEC is the steel industry, the Commission tried to persuade the Italian government to return to the previous system. But in vain.

One EEC official said "they used all kinds of tricks, excuses and subterfuges to tide their steel industry over a difficult period."

The thinly-disguised restrictive measures had their effect. Steel importers often had to change routes up to 80 kilometres, which completely upset their



calculations. The expense of transporting bulk products such as steel is of course enormous.

Complaints from the steel industry underline that higher transport costs were not the only problem. Sudden overcrowding of the remaining customs points led to longer waiting periods and missed delivery dates. This led to orders being cancelled and new orders not being placed.

"This is blatant protectionism. It simply will not do," says Narjes.

The EEC case is based on Article 30 of the Treaty of Rome which states that quota restrictions or measures with the same affect are banned in intra-Community trade.

The Commission has no doubt that closure of the Italian customs points violates this article of the treaty, even though more efficient tax-collecting and control of the market were the decisive motives behind it.

The European Court in Luxembourg interprets restrictive measures very widely. It is quite enough for a measure to have the same potential effects as the imposition of import quotas for it to contravene the rules of the Common Market.

The case of Italian steel imports is the most spectacular and, because of the huge losses of trade and industry, one that requires the speediest remedy. But it is only the tip of the iceberg.

Recently a whole crop of such essentially restrictive measures have mushroomed, all masquerading under fine-sounding and indeed admirable labels such as environmental protection, quality control, technical safety, energy saving or consumer information.

A year ago, an EEC Commission report to the European Parliament complained that every week there were dozens of national regulations, norms and devices being imposed which all constituted obstacles to trade. The number of violations of EEC regulations recorded recently indicates how rampant this disguised protectionism is becoming.

In 1974, only 40 proceedings against such restrictions were started, and in 1979 the figure was 200.

Commission officials reckon that about 400 such cases are now being investigated in Brussels. And numbers are rising all the time.

A poll among members of the German Industry and Trade Congress (DIHT) confirmed this. It showed that from July to November last year there were 240 cases of French and Italian customs offices demanding certificates of origin from the Federal Republic of Germany although an EEC ruling of mid-1980 had stated that these certificates could only be asked for in exceptional cases.

The DIHT regards such measures as part of an "import blockade" and the EEC Commission is now investigating its complaints.

Karl-Heinz Narjes says that the French and the Italians are not the only offenders. He will have to deal with a number of black sheep.

And he added: "It would be an error to assume that the Germans have no skeletons in their cupboards."

The Germans insist on very high technical standards for everything from immersion coils to heavy duty cranes. Nothing can enter which does not satisfy the extremely high standard[s of the] German Standards Institute (DI[N]) ... the German Electrical Engineering ... sociation (VDE).

Karl-Heinz Narjes (Photo: ...)

And with thousands of new sta... and changes to old ones every ye... even the experts can keep up.

A spokesman for the Rhi... branch of the Technical Standards ... ciation (TÜV) said that very often ... only the major companies who c... ford to employ their own expert ... were *au fait* with all the laws and re... tions on the subject.

Narjes was a close colleague of ... first president of the EEC Commi... Walter Hallstein, over 20 years ag... helped reduce customs barriers i... Community.

He says: "If we are not very c... customs will have been one hundr... cent reimposed in different forms i... foreseeable future."

He says the EEC Commission ... launch an immediate programme ... duce existing protectionist meas... prevent the imposition of others.

The practice to date of neutrali... national regulations via Comm... harmonisation has proved very di... In 10 years the EEC Council of ... ters has only passed 130 fr... Commission harmonisation gui... for industrial trade.

Dozens of proposals are now ... or have been shelved by the Cou... Ministers.

In 220 cases the Commission ... stituted proceedings against me... states that either have not appl... have not sufficiently applied ... agreed guidelines.

SPD Euro-MP Horst Seefeld ... plained that for every Eurocrat wo... on harmonisation there were 10 offi... in the national capitals working i... actly the opposite direction.

To "stop the trend towards the ... mentation of the home ma... (Narjes), member-states hould hav... promise to report new regulations ... standards to Brussels and then to d... whether Community action wou... more advisable.

Furthermore the EEC Comm... would have to make greater use ... powers under the EEC treaty to ... gulations binding on all members.

Finally, the EEC Commission ... consider the possibility of taking ... ber-countries to the European C... soon as objectionable laws w... sented to the national assemb... something the EEC Commis... never done.

"I want clear-cut legal securit... economy," says Narjes. "That ... maintaining the home marke... interest of all member-states."

Hans Hagen

(Die Zeit, 13 Febru...)

Wolff von Amerongen opposes subsidies in world trade

Otto Wolff, President of the German Trade and Industry Conference (DIHT), has called for coordinated stabilisation policies among Western industrial countries and a worldwide fight against inflation.

Speaking at his organisation's annual reception, he said the United States would have a special role to play here.

At the same time he warned against attempts to distort competition by a subsidy war among trading nations. Many countries were attempting to solve structural problems at the expense of their partners. Unemployment was becoming an object of international trade.

Countries keeping lame-duck jobs alive by life-support systems were exporting unemployment into healthy industries in other countries, he said.

Wolff opined that the Federal Republic of Germany would also have to bow to the need for international cooperation.

This applied to risk-rich but necessary energy investments in the nuclear power sphere. He said that this burden should



not be placed entirely on the shoulders of our Western neighbours.

Concern for the future was justified. It should be regarded as a challenge which could be met with faith in the market and in competition.

Fear of the future, however, did not belong to the traditional vocabulary of industry. Such fears, he intimated, were "the mice who ate tomorrow's cheese today." These fears should not be allowed to spread.

Wolff told the DIHT general meeting that interest rates in the USA would remain at comparatively high levels because the new administration and the Federal Reserve Bank were determined to eliminate the inflation mentality.

He said that US interest policies had bitter effects on West Germany but did not play a key part in the present economic difficulties.

(Mannheimer Morgen, 11 February 1981)

[H]OME ECONOMICS

Microchips and energy-saving to the fore

[An] executive of a company that [bu]ilds power stations said recently [cl]aims that energy-saving was the [s]ource of energy reminded him of [the arg]ument that fasting was the best [source] of food.

[Ma]ny householders take a different ... They have been so severely hit by [incr]ease in oil and electricity prices [th]ey have come to realise the benefits of energy-saving.

[He]ating oil sold to private households [last] year dropped by a staggering 20 per ... an energy-saving record.

[En]ergy advice centres run by electricity ... and consumers' association are ... ing up all over the place.

[Th]e energy adviser of the Cologne Electricity and Waterworks says two-thirds of the enquiries he gets [ab]out household devices.

[Of]ten, people are looking for specific [infor]mation on specific devices or ... whether the claims of advertisers [are u]tterly reliable.

[Th]e discussion about energy shortage [and] price increases has, of course, led ... manufacturers to stress, not always [with] the strictest regard for veracity, the [ener]gy-saving merits of their products.

[On]e slogan reads: "Our product will [cut y]our energy bills," though comparison[s] show that it in fact uses more energy [th]an those of its competitors.

[At th]e Cologne Domotechnica trade [fair, w]here orange and yellow badges ... immediate eyecatchers, they tell [the wo]uld-be purchaser how much electricity [th]e given product uses per day.

... Salleck, managing director of ... electrical devices section, freely ... that this information is of little [u]se to the ordinary consumer.

[Wh]en comparing these household [devic]es, customers tend to forget the ... capacities of refrigerators and ... and differences in efficiency between washing machines.

[Bes]ides, retail outlets often fail to [provi]de the necessary information on [energ]y-saving.

[Ther]e is no doubt that the energy [consu]mption of household devices has [been] drastically reduced in the past 10 years. The reduction ranges from a ... (for washing machines) to half (for heaters).

[Th]e industry has set itself a target [of] five- to 20-per cent reduction in [the ne]xt four years. This assurance was ... last year after gentle pressure from [the B]onn Ministry of Economic Affairs. [Pro]ducers were no doubt alarmed that ... did not give this quasi-voluntary ... Bonn would dictate energy-[saving] targets.

[Electr]onics made its first appearance [in the] kitchen as many as 10 years ago, ... possible, for example, automatic [c]ontrol of cutters, mixers and vacuum cleaners.

[No]w it is the turn of micro-electronics with chips taking over more than ... function per component. [Dom]otechnica featured the first vacuum cleaner automatically to adjust itself to different kinds of floor surfaces: ... maximum power on a very dirty ... and switches down to minimum ... curtains, for instance.

Last year we saw the prototypes of the first mass-produced devices. This year washing machines and dishwashers controlled by a microcomputer which cuts water consumption and allegedly makes more economic use of water are already available in retail stores.

Nobody today has a precise idea of the miraculous effect micro-electronics are going to have on our lives in the next few years.

One major company is already rumoured to be working on a washing programme according to the dirt levels of the washing. It will also decide independently whether pre-wash powder or softeners should be used.

On the one hand, microcomputers help save electricity by precise control of the machines they operate. They also make important decisions instead of the consumers.

Siemens manager Salleck said that not even the best-designed device could legislate for "thoughtless wastefulness by the consumer."

Despite all her good resolutions, the housewife could not change her spots overnight. Though there were several programmes, she would always tend to use the same one or two and so waste electricity, water and washing powder.

The computer does not thus err. Another thing the computer can do is virtually repair itself. If it should break down, it is programmed to check error sources and thus to accelerate and keep down the price of repairs.

One ought not however to pass over in silence the fact that a computer-controlled washing machine costs a few hundred marks more than a conventional one.

Micro-electronics and energy-saving dominate the Domotechnica. But it is not always the most revolutionary innovations that catch the eye.

One manufacturer, for example, presented a freezer with an acoustic signal which sounded whenever the freezer was left open more than 30 seconds, wasting freezing power which has to be restored by expensive electricity.

This seems such a logical invention that I wondered why no one else had thought of it before.

Hans-Willy Bein

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 12 February 1981)



Microchips on show at the Domotechnica trade fair in Cologne (Photo: F. W. Holubovsky)

Do-it-yourself handymen are an ever-growing market

Do-it-yourself is booming in West Germany and expected to be the fastest growing of all leisure markets by 1985.

Do-it-yourself seems to have become one of the most popular leisure activities, says the Munich Institute of Leisure Economics and Leisure Infrastructure.

The intense interest in the do-it-yourself centre at the Cologne Ironware Fair underlines this.

There were 1,341 exhibitors at the fair, of which a good half had do-it-yourself equipment on display. This is not even surprising. 10.8 million Germans are do-it-yourself buffs, semi-professionals, so to speak.

The Leisure Institute reckons that these handymen spend an average of over 100 hours a year on do-it-yourself jobs. About 30 million West Germans do it themselves every now and again.

The Munich leisure researchers reckon the do-it-yourself market was worth about DM16.9bn in 1978. This represents 12 per cent of total leisure expenditure or 2.3 per cent of total leisure consumption.

Taking 1978 prices as a basis, we can estimate that expenditure on do-it-yourself this year will be about DM25.5bn.

However, there are more conservative estimates. The retail trade reckons total turnover last year was DM16bn, while manufacturers are if anything even more cautious.

This does not alter the fact that the home handyman continues to ensure uninterrupted growth in this industry. It will remain a billion-mark market served by 2,100 handicraft and construction markets and 7,500 specialist shops.

Three quarters of all occasional handymen do household painting; 74 per cent do wallpapering. Then, a long way behind, come floor-laying, carpentry, installation and home extensions.

The Leisure Institute produced the following identikit picture of the typical handyman: male, aged between 40 and 60, home-owner, skilled or office worker, average income, two to three children, helpful and with a sense of community.

He enjoys work and improving his property but saving money is also an important motive. When choosing materials and tools, he pays special attention to quality for which he is prepared to pay more.

The Institute reckons that by 1985 the number of active handymen will have risen from 10.8 to 14.5 million. And they will also be more ambitious than their counterparts today.

Indeed, they will probably have little choice but to grow more proficient, given the price of skilled labour today.

Do-it-yourself has been given a fillip by the greater free time the citizen enjoys and by the wish to do creative work.

This is why the institute predicts greater do-it-yourself activity among younger people by 1985. It will also boost the number of office workers and civil servant do-it-yourselfers.

Until 1978 the majority of handymen were skilled and unskilled workers.

The handyman's range of tools has improved steadily over the years. Already one household in two has a power drill. On the other hand, suppliers are intensifying efforts to ensure that their products, wood, paint, fittings and other accessories are so easy to work that even people with two left hands can work with them.

Product information is regarded as important, though it still leaves a lot to be desired, especially with imported products. The simpler the better, the slogan here should be.

But the statistics would certainly seem to indicate that do-it-yourself is addictive. Once a do-it-yourselfer, always a do-it-yourselfer.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 17 February 1981)

Hamburg handyman laying carpet tiles in his cellar (Photo: Archiv)

ENVIRONMENT

Hydrocarbon pellets from Swiss glacier are from 1637 comet, scientists claim

Tiny black glass balls of a substance embedded in the ice of the Jungfrau glacier in the Bernese Oberland may well be dust from a 1637 comet, Cologne scientists say.

The beads or pellets were discovered by a team of research scientists from the department of nuclear chemistry at Cologne University headed by Professor W. [illegible]en.

About 700kg of glacial ice were excavated from depths of between 40 and 50 metres and melted down to reveal about 190 pellets between 0.03 to 0.15mm in diameter.

They consist of carbine, a newly discovered hydrocarbon differing entirely from diamonds and graphite, its nearest counterparts.

Carbine pellets would seem to be widespread in outer space; on earth they are a completely new message from the cosmos.

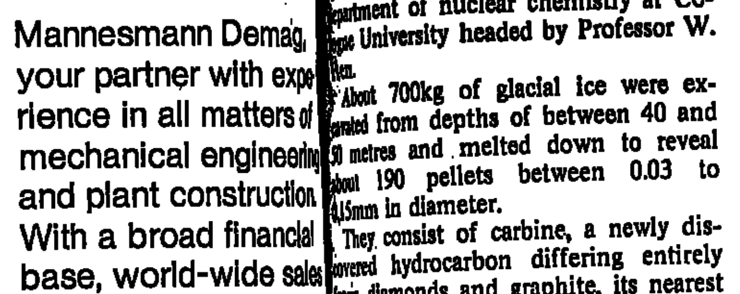
Similar microspherules, likewise once molten and turned solid as pellets, have long been known to exist and doubtless exist everywhere on earth.

But they have only been identified where they cannot get lost in the cosmic rubble of sand and coarse clay, and that is in the sea-bed and ocean-floor clays in which they have been found to be deposited.

There the coarser-grained varieties of continental rock dust have yet to reach such *isolated* locations.

Microspherules as the remainder of molten heavenly bodies had previously only been found in a mixture of nickel and iron and classified as traces of ferrous metetorites.

Glass carbine pellets of this new hydrocarbon are something new and rated by scientists as an exciting discovery.



A decade or so ago El Goresy, a Heidelberg professor, discovered in the Nördlinger Ries area of South Germany, in the crater formed when an enormous meteorite crash-landed millions of years ago, grains of a new hydrocarbon.

Its atomic make-up differed entirely from that of graphite or diamonds. He named it chaoite after a US mineralogist. It had probably taken shape in the heat and high-pressure zone of the meteorite's shock wave on impact.

Various other unusual hydrocarbons similar to chaoite have since come to light, some in a number of meteorites. They are now known as carbines.

They cannot be ascribed to any specific crystalline form yet they do not consist of amorphous hydrocarbon. They are probably layers of orderly chains of hydrocarbon sandwiched between layers of amorphous hydrocarbon.

About a dozen different carbines have so far been found, the latest in terrestrial rock strata.

But some of the cosmic dust suspended between the planets and the fixed stars probably consists of carbines, as does the hydrocarbon in appropriate meteorites.

In the evolution of cosmic matter carbines may well have played a major role, and that means on the way to the evolution of life as we know it.

In searching for space dust in the ice of the Jungfrau glacier the Cologne scientists were able, with financial backing from the Swiss, to excavate ice samples from depths of nearly 50 metres.

At this depth the glacial ice is between 300 and 400 years old and definitely not polluted with industrial dust.

Atmospheric dust of other kinds is rare at Alpine altitudes too, so the scientists were hoping any dust they found in the ice they melted must prove to be cosmic in origin.

They were greatly surprised to find that their pellets consisted of carbine from outer space (or mostly of carbine, at any rate).

But the evidence that their particles were from outer space was mineralogical as well as circumstantial. The pellets were found to contain minute quantities of nitrogen, for instance.

Spectrographical analysis has shown that hydrocarbon particles in meteorites contain nitrogen in quantities of this kind.

The pellets also contained polycyanoacetylenes, chemical compounds likewise previously known to be contained in space dust and meteorites.

Carbine pellets are particularly frequent in this paricular stratum of glacial ice. Cosmic dust should, as a rule, contain only a low count of carbine microspherules.

To judge by their appearance and chemical composition they may have come from meteorites the hydrocarbon outer skins of which were peeled off as they travelled through the upper atmosphere, then melting into dust particles.

Yet even if this hypothesis is accepted the numbers in which they occur are still unusual. They are more likely to have been the mineral components of a comet containing a sediment of cosmic dust in its icy head.

In 1637 a very large comet traversed the solar system passing close to the earth. Frequent illustrations of it are to be found in the scientific literature of the time.

Thus the many carbine particles in glacial ice of the Jungfrau glacier dating back to the 17th century are more than likely to have been parts of the 1637 comet and not just conventional cosmic dust.

The Cologne chemists hope to be even surer of their facts before long, having taken part in the West German Antarctic expedition to probe glacial ice near the South Pole.

The Antarctic has already revealed any number of meteorites, yielding in some places the richest meteorite finds ever made. It is sure to prove a repository of cosmic dust too.

The expedition is to melt three and a half tons of ice in its quest for cosmic pellets. It is sure to provide data as to the standard frequency of carbine pellets.

It may also reveal above-average frequency at certain points in time that coincide with meteorites and comets historically observed and recorded.

Harald Steinert

(Der Tagesspiegel, 14 February 1981)

Foamed sewage more hygienic

The more sewage purification plants are built, the more difficult it will become to dispose of sewage sludge. By 1985 local authority sewage works are expected to amass about 50 million cubic metres of sludge a year, while industrial sewage processers will pile up a further 30 million cubic metres.

For both environmental and cost reasons dumping the sludge on waste tips is likely to prove increasingly problematic. The Battelle Institute, Frankfurt, has now devised a means of foaming the sludge for agricultural use.

Untreated sludge is a hygienic problem. The germs it contains, especially colitis bacteria and salmonellae, are not reliably killed by putrefaction in a vacuum-sealed environment or by oxygen input for stabilisation.

But sludge foamed with urea formaldehyde resin, as devised by Battelle, effectively disinfects the sludge by means of the formaldehyde released.

The number of germs, which in prepurefied sludge is 36 million per gram of dry matter, is reduced to less than 100.

The resin admixture also cuts the amount of heavy metals such as lead or cadmium, which under certain circumstances can be dangerous to both man and beast.

(Die Welt, 14 February 1981)

Chancellor Schmidt's policy decisions

Continued from page 3

more evident on an increasingly broad front.

But does this pose a danger to the government? The formal answer is that the SPD parliamentary party has no legislative function in most controversial issues.

Cynics might even argue that SPD criticism does not limit the government's capacity to act, but only the government's image and the image of Social Democracy.

However, this could be enough to reduce the party's electoral chances in the *Länder* drastically. Berlin will be the first test here.

The Bonn government does not seem to be in much danger at the moment, least of all from the Opposition; the CDU/CSU plays hardly any part in the coalition's internal counsels.

But apart from formal and cynical considerations, the majority of critical Social Democrats are frightened of the thought of returning to the Opposition after a possible defeat of the Chancellor.

Certainly this thought alarms them more than the prospect of tolerating the Chancellor's policies, which they can at least comment on and to a certain extent influence.

It is not the Chancellor's capacity for suffering which is being tested at the moment; it is the SPD's.

Rolf Zundel

(Die Zeit, 13 February 1981)

Tropical forest warning

Destruction of the tropical rain forest continues unabated at an estimated 20 hectares, or 50 acres, a minute, says Hamburg forestry specialist Eberhard F. Brüning.

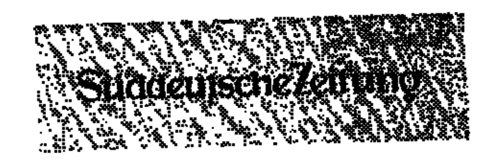
It is, he claims, one of the cardinal sins against the environment and is sure to have repercussions so devastating and widespread that their full extent cannot even be guessed at.

In a single day enough jungle is felled to lay bare an area the size of Schleswig-Holstein, the West German state extending from Hamburg to the Danish border.

"Year by year," he said when the Hamburg University research report was published, "10m to 20m hectares of tropical jungle are destroyed.

"The long-term consequences for the supply of both raw materials and food will be catastrophic. The climate repercussions will be felt all over the world.

"The destruction of tropical forests is arguably the most dangerous overall en-



vironmental change of the times, even more dangerous than desertification and pollution."

The climate repercussions were already perceptible, he said. Less solar energy was being absorbed and converted. The evaporation and atmospheric water cycle in the rain forest zones were on the decline.

Erosion and water outflow were on the increase. The air was growing drier and cooler. Less water and heat were being transported to higher latitudes.

Billions of tons of carbon dioxide were being released into the atmosphere. Destruction of the tropical rain forests also meant the demise of a unique ecosystem and an extraordinary variety of species.

The jungle covered an area of roughly 100 million square kilometres, or 40 million square miles, or roughly a third of the earth's living biomass.

By accounting for a third of the world's flora and fauna the tropical rain forests constituted an immense reservoir of natural riches.

If felling of the jungle, followed by erosion as hitherto, were to continue millions of plant and animal species would die out over the next century, US experts had forecast.

By the turn of the century at least half a million species could be expected to grow extinct; the number could even reach a million over the next 20 years.

This, again, would amount to a third of the world's living species. What was more, by the end of the century the world's cultivable land would be halved, with the trend continuing.

In less than 20 years a billion hectares of land would have been transformed into barren acreage.

"The sum total of disadvantages and damage caused by progressive destruction of tropical forests and landscape is so enormous as to constitute a serious threat to the ecological and economic foundations of mankind as a whole," Professor Brüning said.

Klaus Dallibor/dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1981)

■ LITERATURE

Enlightenment giant and first career writer

Heine once said that no German could mention Lessing without feeling moved. Yet the nation that claims him as a literary classic is strangely alienated from him.

To call Lessing to mind in this, the bicentenary year of his death, is inevitably to recall what, even now, is bewildering and dismaying about Germany's greatest son of the Enlightenment.

He advocated a mature humanity that subsequent history in general, and German history in particular, has since belied.

His oeuvre was very much that of a unique point in time, and one may well wonder whether it can be fully understood or appreciated nowadays.

For the most part he confined himself to the 18th century's favourite genres, the pamphlet, the review, the letter, the critical fragment and the like.

What he had to say is likewise linked to the 18th century's intellectual stock-in-trade, but it would be grossly unfair to dismiss it as the mere stuff of academic learning nowadays.

Even now, 200 years later, it testifies in a breathtaking manner to Lessing's polemical, incorruptible intellect.

His was a mind preoccupied with but a single topic, humanity, and he pursued it singlemindedly with passion and aggression.

He does not really seem to fill the bill as a poet. He lacks the poet's aura. He is not interested in nature and its beauty. Lyrical introversion is not his forte either.

Besides, his life was not unduly eventful. After a childhood spent in Lausitz and Meissen he moved to Leipzig, Berlin, Hamburg and Wolfenbüttel.

He never held high office or enjoyed authority. He was merely employed here and there and in debt to varying degrees.

He married late in life, after six years of engagement, and this led to the only fateful event in his life. A year after their marriage Eva König, his wife, died in childbirth, and their son with her.

Yet wherever Lessing happened to be he invariably left the impression of being a tireless worker living the not very happy life of a full-time writer and intellectual.

He was, indeed, the first full-time writer in modern German history, and a critic through and through. There was no such thing as a topic too insignificant to serve the cause of his polemics.

He was opposed to ideological inflexibility and an impassioned advocate of the gentle, sympathetic approach to his subject.

"Humanity and meekness merit being recommended at every opportunity," he wrote, "and there can be no occasion so remote that we cannot, in our hearts, feel to be entirely natural and urgent."

This may sound gentle and conciliatory, but there can be no mistaking the latent polemical undertone based on Lessing's invariable scepticism.

He never felt able to repress the idea that what he thought was right would fall on stony ground in society. "If only I had never wanted mankind to be different," he lamented, adding that he would sooner have been born a bear than a human being.

Mistrust of the diluted Enlightenment spirit of the emerging bourgeoisie is,



moreover, a recurring feature of his dramatic output.

The much-vaunted bourgeois tragedy that Lessing is said to have invented as a dramatic genre had no other objective than to help deep-seated human needs to prevail over hard-hearted and narrow-minded views.

Emilia Galotti, for instance, tells her father: "I have blood, father, blood as young as any."

Fine productions of Lessing's plays are few and far between these days, but even now, 200 years after his death, audiences still keenly feel the sympathy with his characters he sought to inspire.

In appealing to the educational impetus of sympathy, or the "sympathetic feeling of humanity," as he called it, he was very much attuned to Aristotelian catharsis, the dramaturgical principle of his day.

But he boldly transformed the Greek purification of the emotions by vicarious experience, as defined in Aristotle's *Poetics*, into the Christian principle of love thy neighbour.

"Without love," he wrote, "we could not possibly feel sympathy towards the fate of someone else."

He ended up by portraying his characters as kindly and charmingly as one could possibly imagine, There can hardly be a German play to rival his *Nathan der Weise* für its message of understanding and fraternity.

"What characters they are," wrote a lady of his acquaintance, "such a Jew, such a sultan, such a knight templar! If there were many more of them who would not just as soon live on earth as in heaven!"

Yet it would be unfair to *Nathan* to reduce the message of the play to a mere edict of tolerance and peaceful religious coexistence. It would be as wrong to do so now as it was then.

Lessing was a pious man, full of the fear of God, but he well knew that the worst kind of unfreedom was the result of religious ideology politically consolidated.

Anyone who doubts for a moment that he was keenly aware of the danger of bigotry can but be recommended to read his *Anti-Goeze*.

The tale Lessing tells in *Nathan* is the concrete utopia of human reconciliation, a truly bold venture of which he alone was capable.

In the enlightened belief in human common sense, a secularised belief in reason, all religions and the differences between them are neutralised and offset against each other.

Nathan testifies and pays tribute to the realisation that God's creation was henceforth left to the freee and ethical responsibility of mankind.

This may sound pathetic but it amounts to no more, and no less, than the Enlightenment maxim that the age of emancipation, of man's coming of age, had been proclaimed.

In Lessing this maxim has a sole and worthy begetter, His descendants were beaten with the interdict of dialectics inherent in the Enlightenment and described by Adorno and Horkheimer as follows:

Gotthold Ephraim Lessing
(Photo: ...)

"Enlightenment has always, in ... most comprehensive meaning ... thought, aimed at putting paid to ... fears and making him the master.

"But the fully enlightened world ... aglow in the sign of triumphant ... The programme of the Enlightenment was to demystify the world. It sought ... end myths and oust imagination ... means of knowledge."

Adorno and Horkheimer wrote ... words 35 years ago, yet they are still topical as ever, if not more so. Man ... so far failed to take over as the master and not been deprived of his fears.

Even Lessing's free intellect ... have anticipated this dialectical ... round. "Go your own imperceptible ... eternal providence," he wrote, "but ... let me despair in you because ... so imperceptible.

"Let me not despair in you ... your steps should appear to me ... backward."

Sabina Kienlechner

(Mannheimer Morgen, 14 February ...)

New deal for neglected poet-critic

Heinrich Heine, the German Romantic poet and social critic, died 125 years ago in self-imposed exile in Paris, So 1981 can hardly be claimed for him as a centenary or any other conventional anniversary year.

Yet seldom have commemorative ceremonies been so extensive as this time round, especially in Düsseldorf, the city where he was born,

The activities planned range from a monument that is to be unveiled to his memory to a platform debate featuring writers and politicians in honour of the city's finest son.

There is, of course, a good reason why Heine is being so fêted. It is that Germany has had a disturbed relationship with the poet who wrote such sensitive love lyrics and such trenchant political satire,

Heine's life story is a tale of struggle and denigration. The reception his oeuvre has been given is likewise a tale of Heine being either outlawed or glorified.

The Heine who immediately springs to mind is the writer of the *Loreley* poem, which begins with the words: *Ich weiß nicht, was soll es bedeuten* (I'm sure I don't know what it means),

This evergreen Romantic ballad, the opening words of which everyone can readily recall, is followed by the usual hackneyed clichés in most people's minds.

But the cliché Heine, whether misunderstood or idolised, is not a true picture of the poet.

Misunderstandings were quick to arise. Karl Gutzkow, a near-contemporary whose literary claim to fame is tenuous


Heinrich Heine
(Photo: Historia)

to say the least, compared Heine's poems with scented taffeta flowers.

It was a particularly inept comparison. Heine's poems have a touch of irony to put paid to any excess of emotion,

Early this century the Viennese critic Karl Kraus said of Heine that he had unlaced the corsetry of the German language to such an extent that any beginner could finger its bosom.

Inadvertently this was a tribute ... Heine's major achievement, the ... out from the German language of ... the pathos of Classicism and the ... ty of Romanticism.

But it is only fair to add that ... himself had no compunction in ... verbal swing at his opponents.

He was proscribed artistically and ... lawed socially and politically as a ... of his era and as a Jew.

The climax in his lifetime came ... 1844, when he was placed on the ... ed list by the Prussian Ministry ... Police. The nadir thereafter came ... Third Reich when the Nazis ... him an unperson and attributed ... immortal lyrics to Trad. and Anon.

So perhaps it is understandable ... the forthcoming Heine celebrations ... Düsseldorf and elsewhere are ... being exaggerated as a belated bid ... him justice.

Doing Heine justice must amount ... more than the discreditable ... dispute as to whether Düsseldorf ... versity should be named after him.

It must also amount to more ... frank admission that Nazi readers ... uted the *Loreley* to an unknown ... or that literary experts in both East ... West have sought to claim for their ... ideological ends an indubitable ... freedom.

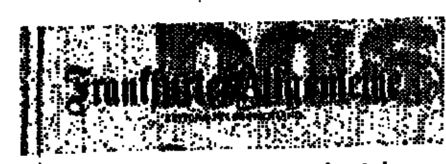
Justice can only be done by ... objectively with the poetic and ... substance of Heine's legacy.

Hans ...

(Westdeutsche Allgemeine, 14 February ...)

MEDICINE

Intensive care is essential for serious intestinal disorders, doctors told



Intensive care, often decried as expensive and inhuman, has markedly improved the survival chances of patients with acute diseases of the digestive organs such as haemorrhages from stomach and intestinal ulcers, liver failure and necrosis of the pancreas.

Yet the mortality rate among these patients is still very high. If there were more special intensive care units for patients with gastro-intestinal diseases, the mortality rate could be reduced significantly.

At a recent in-service training congress for doctors in Berlin, Professor H. Pickert of Spandau Hospital quoted promising results from Sainte Marguerite Hospital in Marseilles.

This hospital has a special gastro-enterological intensive care unit in which 1,100 patients have been treated in the past three years. Such units are extremely rare in West Germany and, where they do exist, are often badly understaffed.

In West Germany 75 per cent of patients suffering from serious liver failure die. In Marseilles the corresponding figure is only 45 per cent.

In the case of acute inflammation of the pancreas, the mortality rate was half as low (23 per cent) and for acute intestinal diseases two thirds lower (12 per cent) than in West Germany.

A poll in 158 German hospitals of all sizes has shown that, quantitatively, intensive care of patients with serious haemorrhages of the upper digestive tract can be guaranteed but that the quality of such care still leaves much to be desired.

These patients are often not all treated in the same unit, even when several intentive care units are available.

Experienced doctors have to be available round the clock for emergency endoscopy, which localises and measures the intensity of haemorrhages.

Haemorrhages of the oesophagus, stomach and duodenum lead to fatalities in about 20 per cent of cases. Blood loss in such cases can be several litres in a very short period of time.

Thanks to the high degree of diagnostic accuracy, emergency endoscopy decides whether operative treatment is necessary.

The diagnosis and treatment of acute haemorrhages requires a smoothly-working team of doctors and nurses with gastro-enteric experience. And a surgeon must be consulted in time.

Patients with severe stomach inflammation such as can occur in the course of colitis ulcerosa should also be treated in a gastro-enteric intensive care unit.

Professor Kurt Müller-Wieland of Hamburg said most fatalities in the case of this disease could be attributed to errors and negligence in therapy.

Using all the techniques available to intensive medicine, it is possible to decide within the first three days whether a relatively low-risk operation is necessary, before the risk of intestinal perforation rises.

Survival chances for patients with liver failure caused by virus heptatitis, drugs or deadly amanita poisoning survival chances are very low. Seventy to 90 per cent of patients die, with survival depending on factors such as age, sex, the cause of the disorder and operative complications.

Intensive care has improved the situation even for patients with liver failure but only marginally.

Given the liver's great capacity to regenerate itself, the technique of temporary liver transplantation is used. This takes the pressure off the damaged liver until it can then resume normal operations.

In Berlin, Munich and Bonn baboon livers are used for this purpose. The success of the operation depends solely on the regenerative power of the damaged liver.

This treatment is only suitable for patients with acute hepatitis, poisoning, sepsis or pregnancy toxicosis. It cannot be used in the case of cirrhosis of the liver.

Extra-corporal liver perfusion should be performed as soon as the patient begins to lose consciousness, as prospects for survival deteriorate as the coma deepens.

This treatment has been in use since 1964, when pig's livers were used. Using several animal organs successively, a perfusion period of several days can be reached.

This treatment is very labour-intensive but the success rate can be as high as 40 to 50 per cent.

Patients with acute atrophy of the liver can only be saved by liver transplantations. So far about 400 liver transplantation operations have been performed throughout the world.

Teams at hospitals in Denver, USA, and Cambridge, England, have the greatest experience here. In West Germany, liver transplantations are performed at hospitals in Bonn and Hanover.

Technical and organisational p[…] in getting hold of livers for t[…]tion are the major difficulty b[…]cause of the risks of the operatio[…] patients with a few months to l[…] chosen for this operation. Some p[…] have lived up to nine years with […]planted liver.

As doctors have gained exp[…] the success rate has risen. In 19[…] only 28 per cent of patients used to […] for up to a year; today the figure is […] cent.

It soon becomes clear whether a liver transplant is going to be […]ful. Patients who die comparative[…] after the operation often spend […] seven months in clinics after the […]tion.

Patients who survive longer, […] other hand, have fewer immu[…] difficulties and only spend ab[…] months in hospital in the first ye[…]

Special conservation procedu[…] increased the transplantable […] donor livers from 20 minutes […] hours. Liver transplants are likely […] performed increasingly frequently, […]cially as the potential number of […]tients is constantly increasing.

Deaths from cirrhosis of the liv[…] by 55 per cent between 1961 and […]

M. Beh[…]

(Frankfurter Allgemeine […] für Deutschland, 11 Februa[…])

Heidelberg heart specialist on telltale signs of an attack

Only one in three heart attacks comes as a bolt out of the blue. In most cases there have already been telltale signs the patient all too frequently ignores or dismisses as insignificant.

About 35 per cent of all men and women who have a first heart attack are already receiving medical treatment for angina pectoris.

The patient can generally predict when the typical pains symptomatic of angina pectoris are going to occur — climbing stairs, for instance, or after stress at work.

If the patient then rests or takes nitroglycerine tablets the pains soon subside.

If the angina pectoris sufferer behaves health-consciously and follows his doctor's advice he can lead a full, active and normal life.

However, if the attack suddenly become more frequent and stronger, if the normal dose of drugs is no longer enough and if attacks occur when the patient is resting or even lying down, this can be taken as a warning signal.

This unstable form of angina pectoris in which attacks can no longer be predicted is regarded as a preliminary to a heart attack.

According to Professor E. Nüssel of Heidelberg, who was speaking at a conference of cardiologists in Bad Bevensen recently, patients with angina pectoris are in particular danger when a heart attack occurs.

This is why patients should not take changes in their symptoms lightly. Early and appropriate treatment can often prevent the heart attack from taking a very unfavourable course when it does come.

Another third of heart patients that they noticed a change of symptome up to 28 days before the attack occurred but did not attach any importance to it.

They quoted a whole range of heart-related symptoms, from typical pains in and constriction of the breast to stabbing pains in the heart and pains in the left arm and in the jaw as well as pains in the intestinal tracts, nausea and vomiting.

Nüssel has compiled a list of fifteen typical tell-tale symptoms. The symptoms in the intestinal tract occ[…] rapidly and are not as well-kn[…] typical heart symptoms. The p[…] does not realise there could be any […]nection with a possible heart attack.

Anyone suffering from such s[…]toms for the first time should l[…] and relax immediately. He shou[…] inform the doctor who is most f[…] with his medical history.

He will be best able to judge w[…] these pains are the first signs of a[…] coming heart attack. His doctor w[…] tell him what to do in future […] particular what to do should the[…] pains recur.

The advice given in such a case […]dividual and general. Should the s[…]toms recur, individual medical a[…] will be necessary.

Professor Nüssel said that the o[…] of the patient's doctor was more […] than laboratory diagnosis. Experie[…] the Heidelberg area had shown th[…] number of correct diagnoses by d[…]

Continued on page 13

Asthma relie[…]

The life expectancy of asthma s[…]rers is now not very differen[…] that of the population as a […] thanks to new drugs. Professor […] Hain told an internal medicine c[…]ence in Hamburg recently.

Only 25 years ago, asthmatic […] reduced average life expectancy by […] ten years. Patients suffering from a[…] should nonetheless consult a doct[…] he said.

Professor Walter Bleifeld of Ha[…] University Clinic has introduced a […] method of "intra-coronary lysis" […] could significantly reduce the effe[…] heart attacks and save the lives of […] heart attack victims.

(Allgemeine Zeitung, 9 Februa[…])

EDUCATION

A private university for the company executive

A new and unique educational institu[…]tion, the Professional Man's Univer[…]y, aims to train a new generation of [pra]ctically-oriented economists. And [the]re has been no shortage of advance [acc]olades for it.

Alfred Bendziula, speaking at the [ope]ning of the university in Rendsburg, [Sch]leswig-Holstein, said it had the [cha]nce to combine theory and practice [in] a particularly desirable manner.

Bendziula is chairman of the vocatio[na]l training committee of the German [Em]ployers' Association.

The new university intends most of its [stu]dents to be practical business[m]en who already occupy leading posi[tio]ns in industry or have landed in a [pr]ofessional cul-de-sac.

The university, which is private but [st]ate-recognised, is offering two major [co]urses leading to degree qualifications [as] a micro-economist and as an econo[m]ist-engineer.

The unusual thing about the courses [is] that most of the teaching is done in [eve]ning classes.

This is a tough way to get a degree [bu]t it does ensure that the salary keeps [co]ming in and that the student does not [lo]se touch with everyday working prac[ti]ce.

The six-term economics degree is in[te]nded primarily for managers who have [re]ached the top thanks to hard work, [co]mmitment and single-mindedness.

What they often lack however is the solid theoretical substructure which is vitally necessary once management decisions above a certain level are required.

The thinking behind the four-term course for economist-engineers is similar. It is aimed at engineers with professional experience who have worked their way into positions where mere technical and scientific knowledge is not enough.

The aim here is to give them a solid grounding in the mathematics, statistics and theory of economics.

The university will also run correspondence courses along the lines of the British Open University.

Schönherr stresses, however, that this is just one aspect of its work. Students will be required to attend regularly.

On both courses there will be compulsory basic study units held at university branches throughout the country from Hamburg to Munich.

The special seminars for degree candidates will be held in two centres and at weekends so they do not make excessive demands on students during the working week.

Schönherr said that past experience with his organisation's other courses had shown that most of the work was done early in the morning or on the weekends.

At any rate, homework was dosed in such a way that families and leisure time were not completely ignored.

Schönherr said that the courses took into account the individual situation of the learner. This was why there was no definite starting date for the course as the tempo of learning was dictated by deadlines at work.

Schönherr said that those with heavy work or family commitments would not be at a disadvantage and "high fliers" would be able to reach their goal comparatively rapidly.

And the students have to deliver the goods, in dissertations, examinations, degree theses and a final colloquium in which managers and economists take part.

Schönherr stressed that "practical orientation" throughout the course and right up to the examinations was their strength.

An entry condition of the course is three years' professional practice, so practical points of view kept being introduced into the discussion.

This ensured a "feedback" effect on the lecturers. In addition, part-time lecturers holding senior management positions were also on the school staff.

BDA vocational training expert Bendziula said that the Professional's University could primarily help reduce educational deficits in small and medium-sized companies.

Large companies had for many years now trained their staff for top management in their own special institutions, which small companies, for obvious financial reasons, just could not afford to do.

Now these companies had the opportunity of giving their staff a sound economic training without having to dispense with their services.

Eberhard Krummheuer

(Handelsblatt, 6 February 1981)

Heart attack

Continued from page 12

was very high. If a patient's doctor said there was nothing to worry about, the patient could rely on this assurance with a high degree of probability.

If the doctor had any doubts, he would of course take an ECG and ask for a laboratory evaluation of the symptoms. In the early stages, elaborate diagnosis is neither useful nor necessary.

Of course the patient must describe the symptoms accurately and as graphically as possible. This was stressed time and time again at the Bad Bevensen conference because experience shows that many heart patients tend to play down their pains.

Only when the doctor is fully aware of the situation, and he cannot be without the patient's cooperation, can he make the right diagnosis.

If there is the least suspcion of a heart attack, the doctor will send the patient to hospital immediately. In the clinic the first examinations can be held and all therapeutic measures taken.

Unfortunately, far too many patients today rush along to their doctors with what they think are symptoms of an oncoming heart attack.

According to Professor Nüssel's statistics, the decisive phase from the first appearance of typical heart-related pains until the doctor was informed took an average of three to seven hours.

This time is crucial, because it is then that the signals for health are set. From this point of view, the patient can do a lot to lessen the consequences of a heart attack.

Konrad Müller-Christiansen

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 February 1981)

■ MODERN LIVING

Constitutional Court holds public hearing on the rights of illegitimate fathers

When Countess Franziska von Reventlow gave birth to an illegitimate child in 1897 and refused to name the father, a scandal erupted.

Her pose as a self-assured woman who wanted a child and did not give a hoot for the father was, however, much admired by the chic trendsetters of Schwabing.

The average "unmarried woman" was not so feted. She was regarded as a fallen woman and had to pay for her "lapse" throughout her life.

Her chances of marriage or professional success were non-existent. She had a child to bring up, leaving little time for anything else.

The consequences for the father were nothing like as serious. At worst, all he had to do was pay.

The German Civil Code of the time reflected this reality. The father of an illegetimate child was not a father at all for the purposes of the law.

The legal term for him was "begetter" and he was not regarded as related to the child.

The child could not claim maintenance from the father but merely received part of the alimony which was paid to the mother and related to her income.

This did not change until 1970. The Bonn Basic Law promised equal treatment for legitimate and illegitimate children but it took a hefty nudge from the Federal Constitutional Court before politicians fulfilled this promise.

Since 1970 the position of illegitimate children (and of their mothers) has improved: these children are now regarded as related to their father, have full rights to maintenance and to inherit.

Indeed, they have one privilege in comparison with legitimate children: instead of waiting for their inheritance they can demand to have it paid out to them between the age of 21 and 27.

However, the father remained what he always had been: the paymaster, nothing else. He still has no legally-guaranteed right to take part in the upbringing of the child along with the mother.

And the mother decides if and when he can see his child. Only if personal contact with the father "serves the child's well-being" can a guardianship court rule against a mother's will and allow the father to visit the child.

This means that the father of an illegitimate child today is financially responsible for his child but has practically no rights.

Fathers have, however, now rediscovered the joys of fatherhood, witness the success of the Hollywood film *Kramer v. Kramer*, and so the law as it stands no longer corresponds to lived reality.

It is therefore small wonder that three fathers of illegitimate children have taken their case to the Supreme Constitutional Court insisting on more rights for "illegitimate" fathers.

The Constitutional Court judges devoted one of their rare public sessions lasting a week to the treatment of their case.

Heinz Günter Keusemann is the father of 12-year-old Florian and has been living with his mother for six years. They are not married. He is a hospital orderly and his wife is a nurse.

They each have a part-time post at Hamburg University Clinic.

They have arranged their working timetable on a one-month on, one-month off basis.

One month the mother looks after Florian, the next it is father's turn. As a result, Florian has far more contact with his father than many a "weekend father."

Despite this, the Civil Code will not allow Keusemann the formal legal right of custody for his son. This means that he cannot register his son in a kindergarten.

He cannot give formal approval for a vaccination or operation, cannot sign indentures and cannot become a member of the school parent-teacher association.

If Herr Keusemann and his common-law wife should split, Florian would remain with the mother and his father would have no legal rights.

It is possible that a judge in the guardianship court would assign him the right to visit the child regularly — possible, but only at the judge's discretion.

Both the other plaintiffs at the Federal Constitutional Court were asking for the right to see their children. Both paid maintenance regularly and both had vainly tried to establish regular contact with their children.

In each case, the mother had categorically refused to allow the child to have contact with the father and the youth authorities decided it would be best to leave it at that.

This means that the child's real father is totally excluded. He is expected to pay, and that is that. A mother would have to maltreat or seriously neglect her child before she were treated in this way.

Herr Bahlmann, a senior civil servant in the Bonn Ministry of Justice, dutifully defended the law as it stands.

He said the mother was the "biological, emotional and personal" focal point in the child's life. The child's development could be disturbed by contact to the father, which could involve tensions with the mother which should be eliminated in the child's interest.

There was also a danger that joint custody by unmarried parents could lead to an erosion of the institution of marriage and an upgrading of non-marital relations.

Of course it is correct that in the great majority of cases the mother is the more important parent for the child. There are no absolute biological reasons for this, but it is an organic historical reality.

Yet more and more children today feel just as close to their fathers as they do to their mothers. If Florian's mother moved out and thus degraded the father to the role of paymaster and nothing else, their son's development would be endangered.

Contact with both parents is always the ideal solution if the well-being of the child is taken into account.

In many cases, mothers simply do not tell children who their father is. This menas that the child, before it starts school, in puberty or when it comes of age, is confronted with the realisation that it is not who it always thought it was.

Exposing a child to this kind of shock is surely also a form of negligence.

Countess Reventlow's attitude w… cally unrealistic. A child has a … Why should it not also have the … know that father?

The law no longer regards an … mate child as the result of a "la… the mother. Begetting illegitima… dren is no longer regarded as … and secretly admired proof of … prowess.

Should not the law then go a … ther and give both parents the … bring up or at least have person… tact with the child.

Has it the right to prevent the "… cal father" from becoming the … father?"

The Constitutional Court judge… publish their ruling in March. It … clear in the court discussion th… of the judges at least have sy… with the situation of the fathers.

It is therefore conceivable th… upgrading of the illegitimate chi… be followed by the upgrading of … legitimate father.

This in turn would affect par… general. Since the new parental … came into force on January 1 19… vorced parents have not been … joint custody of their children. Th… parental law forces the judge to … custody to one of the parents.

Even if parents believe that th… keep the children out of their pa… conflicts they have no chance. Or… of them gets custody, and it is … the mother.

Of course these fathers too have … tested and they have found sy… from some guardianship court … who referred the matter to the F… Constitutional Court.

The Berlin Supreme Court has … ruled that the law as it stands at p… is unconstitutional.

This means that in Berlin … parents can continue to hold joint … tody of their children. But not in … Germany.

Eva Marie von M…

(Die Zeit, 6 Februar…)

Self-help for the lonely in Hanover

Adolf Sander, recently started a telephone self-help scheme in Hanover in which lonely and for the most part elderly people could phone up and get advice, help or sympathy.

As he says: "It's no use moaning about loneliness. You've got to do something about it."

Herr Sander got the idea from the local newspaper which printed the phone numbers of people willing to invite the singles and the solitary to their homes on Christmas Eve.

One of those with his name on the list was pensioner Sander: "The first day I had fourteen phone calls from people living on their own and only too glad to talk to someone on the phone.

I was very shaken to find how much loneliness there is amongst us. And I thought: why should this thing only happen once a year? "

The local newspaper published an advertisement by Sander to which 50 people replied within a few days, either offering or seeking help. They ranged from a 33-year-old secretary to an 86-year-old widow.

Sander said: "The response is so overwhelming that we already have four telephone link-ups in different parts of town each with about 12 people. And a fifth link-up is on the way." The way this works is that every member phones a certain other member at a certain time every day. The basic idea of the link-ups, says Sander, "is to make sure that everyone gets one call a day and that no one is left helpless and alone for days if anything happens."

As some people in this link-up are particularly in need of help, the scheme involves more than just phoning up and talking. There is, for example, a 73-year-old pensioner who is happy if someone goes walking with him now and again, or a 56-year-old widow with severe rheumatism who only leaves her room on the fourth floor every now and again to buy what she absolutely needs.

Otherwise she hardly ever dares go out, especially in winter, for fear of … ing and breaking something.

The telephone link scheme … welcome help and relief to people … her.

(Bremer Nachrichten, 11 Februar…)



(Photo: Fel…)

SPORT

King's Cup tennis title won in Hamburg

…ans Rosenthal, president of the Deutscher Tennis-Bund, sounded a …inctly subdued note at Alsterdorfer … the Hamburg indoor arena where West German men had just won the …'s Cup.

…inning the King's Cup must natu… be rated a splendid sporting suc…" he said, "but it can hardly be …d a really major victory."

…ilhelm Bungert, the DTB official …onsible for the top-flight competit…ns, did not wax unduly enthusias… …ither:

…inning the King's Cup comes as … surprise, of course, but I was pleased to see the squad perform consistently well throughout the competition.

"That lays a fine groundwork for the Davis Cup round against Argentina in Munich at the beginning of March."

There is indeed no reason for mindless enthusiasm or confidence on account of the first King's Cup win by the German men since 1939.

This year other European countries all entered their second string for the Cup. Not even title defenders Czechoslovakia bothered to field either Ivan Lendl or Tomas Smid in the home and away legs against the German men.

At Hamburg, in the return leg of the final against the Soviet Union, a crowd of 3,700 were not overwhelmed by enthusiasm to see their team win the Cup either.

Why should they have been? The two singles and one doubles game were lost 2-1, albeit after a 2-1 victory in Moscow and a better set ratio that ensured overall victory.

Should they have been thrilled by the showing of singles stars Uli Pinner and Rolf Gehring? Surely not. Neither was outstanding.

Pinner beat Konstantin Pugayev 7-6, 6-2 but made heavy weather of the first set and only performed at all well in the second. Yet his opponent had little to offer but a hard, straight service.

Really sparkling world-class tennis was not seen until the first two sets of the second singles, played by Rolf Gehring and Vadim Borisev, both 25.

Gehring lost the first set 4-6 to the Soviet No. 1, then came back into the running with a 6-2 win in the second set. But he lost the third 0-6.

"I played just as well as I had been doing," he said, "but Borisev simply got every shot right."

Experts reckon reckon Gehring probably threw away the last set after his second-set win had ensured the home team of Cup victory.

This suspicion promptly gave rise to the recurring accusation that German tennis players just do not have the right attitude towards the game.

Suspicions of this kind will not have applied to the doubles pair Klaus Eberhard and Christoph Zipf even though they lost 5-7, 7-6, 6-7 to Borisev and Pugayev of the Soviet Union.

In earlier rounds and in the first leg of the final their showing had been acknowledged by all. Admittedly Zipf, 18, was not at his strongest in Hamburg. Will this men's doubles combination stay together long enough to fare as well as, say, Jürgen Fassbender and Hans-Jürgen Pohlmann? Much will depend on the DTB. Chief coach Richard Schönborn was already considering other pairings of top-flight German men for the doubles in Hamburg, it was learnt.

Ursula Diosegi

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 9 February 1981)

King's Cup indoor tennis title winners Klaus Eberhard, Christoph Zipf, Uli Pinner, Rolf Gehring and coach Günter Bosch (Photo: Wilfried Witters)

Three points for a win

…ritain's celebrated sense of humour …usually comes into its own when in …any the situation would no longer … laughing matter for those concern…

…ke, for instance, the following …dote told in connection with …meting soccer gates.

A club in the middle of the table is … by a caller who wants to know … the next home game is. "When … *you got time* to spare, then? " the …ecretary asks.

…s are not all that has occurred to … in the mother country of associa… football on the subject of soccer … that used to be.

…e proposals narrowly approved by … Football League even go so far as to …ise Sunday soccer and put paid to … Day observance.

…b chairmen have given this … their blessing, so before long … will be a day not only of church … ringing but also of soccer turnstiles …ing.

…is, of course, is strictly a British …lem. But another innovation adopt… the Football League is likely to af… the Continent before long.

… is the proposal, officially endorsed …0 February, to make a league game …count three points rather than two. … new ruling will apply from next …n, starting this autumn.

…e Football League, feeling the pinch …cially, hopes this change will en…age teams to show a little more …sive spirit, playing to win and sup…s a diet of attacking soccer to get … fans back in the stands and terraces …e they belong.

…he 92 League clubs in Divisions One …our will, it is hoped, be induced by … extra-point incentive to run a few … risks.

… hopes prove warranted and the fans … a comeback, similar reforms can … fail to be adopted in continental …pe too.

…t there is no need to be overhasty. … need not follow suit until the ex…ment has proved a success.

… away games club managers may be …fraid of conceding the extra point … hosts will be keen to win that they … well instruct playing staff to play … more defensive football than they …ready.

Ludwig Dotzert

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 11 February 1981)



Ursula Kamizuru (Photo: Horstmüller)

Table tennis team thrash the Russians 6-1

Hamburger Abendblatt

Ralf Wosik, 22, was largely responsible for West Germany's 6-1 table tennis thrashing of the Soviet Union in Hamburg. He won all four of his matches, two singles, the men's doubles and the mixed doubles.

Stanislav Gomotskov, the Soviet chief coach was most annoyed. "We spent an entire week training six hours a day in Moscow," he said, "and it proved no use at all."

The German coach Istvan Korpa, 35, from Yugoslavia, had spotted Wosik at the western regional championships a week beforehand and backed him for the singles.

"Ralf now trains twice a day and has improved his backhand topspin enormously. He has gained in self-confidence and virtually decided today's outcome singlehandedly."

Former international Eberhard Schöler felt Ralf was playing consistently well, which Wilfried Lieck, 35, a Dortmund teacher and and the men's reserve, could hardly disagree.

When the German team were leading 3-0 Lieck whispered to women's reserve Kirsten Krüger: "You can tell immediately when we're not out there."

They had both played in the team that was thrashed 7-0 by Yugoslavia. But Lieck was the only player to miss the post-match party. He had to be home and off to school at 8am the next morning.

Ursula Kamizuru, 1.49m (4ft 10½in), beat European champion Valentina Popova in two straight sets and was given a good hand.

West German champion Peter Stellwag lost his second match. It was the last of the evening and the only one the home team lost. The first he won convincingly but with the team leading 6-0 he evidently felt unable to pull out all the stops.

Hans-Eckart Jaeger

(Hamburger Abendblatt, 13 February 1981)

No cuts in government spending

Sports expenditure in the 1981 budget was the main item on the agenda of the 11 February meeting of the Bundestag sports committee in Bonn.

It was clear that even in a year of no-holds-barred calls for spending cuts serious inroads into funds earmarked for sport were not to be expected.

Sports spending by the Bonn government has averaged DM250m a year for many years and few if any changes are expected in the overall total.

Sports associations are ill at ease and in some cases disgusted at the way in which the Interior Ministry has pared from DM51m to DM49.3m its proposed outlay on central government promotion of top-flight sport.

At first glance the cut hardly seems to be in keeping with political promises to expect no more sacrifices from top-flight sport after last year's Olympic boycott.

Yet since last year's figure included a special Olympic allocation of DM5.2m which, as a one-off package, could hardly be expected to recur this year the picture may look somewhat different.

The committee is certainly going to summons the Interior Minister in person to see for itself whether sports aid is truly as generous as Ministry officials in Bonn invariably claim it is.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 13 February 1981)